

# **IOWA BIRD LIFE**

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## **IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION**



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*The Iowa Ornithologists' Union, founded in 1923, encourages interest in the identification, study, and protection of birds in Iowa and seeks to unite those who have these interests in common. Iowa Bird Life is a quarterly publication of the Union.*

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# Broad-billed Hummingbird (*Cynanthus latirostris*) in Humboldt, Iowa

*Jacob Newton*

On the evening of 13 October, 2021, April Blair was working in the back deck of her garage in Humboldt, IA when she observed a dark hummingbird coming to her feeders. She had not observed any hummingbird activity for at least a week, and this bird was very dark and doing a lot of tail wagging while perched and feeding at her feeder. She went into her house to get her binoculars and returned to find the bird sitting in a tree, and when she got it in her binoculars, she saw that it was iridescent blue and green with a bright red beak. She didn't know what it was, only that it was definitely something completely unlike any of the Ruby-throated Hummingbirds she was accustomed to seeing. April consulted her field guide and determined that what she had just seen was a Broad-billed Hummingbird. Broad-billed Hummingbirds are species of the canyon riparian forests of south-east Arizona and north-central and central Mexico, and though this species had been recorded in Iowa in 2011 in Charles City (Montgomery and Hertz, 2011), April was fairly certain that she'd need photos to back up her claim were she to report it to eBird or elsewhere.

On October 14th she captured some photos of the bird, though not of particularly high quality, and reported the bird to the 'Cornell rare bird reporting site'. She continued to attempt

to take better quality shots on the 15th and 16th to bolster her report (Figure 1). On the 17th convinced of what she had, she decided to try and get ahold of me but had no luck in acquiring my contact information. However, she succeeded in finding a couple of posts on the Iowa Ornithologists' Union's listserv. On the 18th she contacted Ann Johnson inquiring how she could contact me, which led to Ann reporting the sighting on the listserv that Monday morning. By 2 p.m. Monday the 18th I was at April's house,

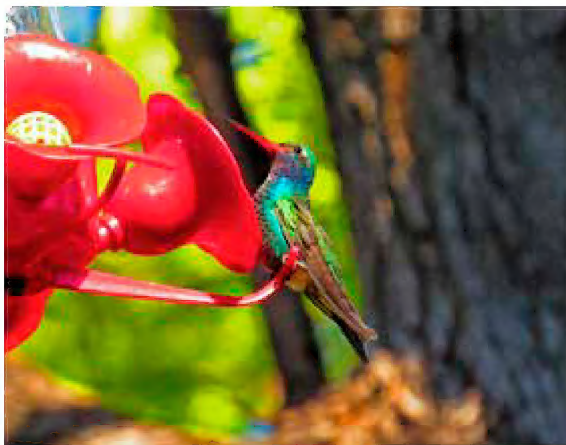


Figure 1. Broad-billed Hummingbird (*Cynanthus latirostris*) first seen by April Blair on 13 October 2021, Humboldt, Humboldt, IA. Photograph by April Blair, Humboldt, Iowa.

and soon after observed the male Broad-billed Hummingbird, and secured a few photos along with a few other early arrivals. I continued on at the site for the rest of the afternoon. I observed the bird coming into the feeders several times, at about a rate of once every 10-20 minutes with occasional dalliances



in excess of 40 minutes (Figure 2). This periodicity continued until about 4PM when the bird's visits stopped; I remained until a short time after dusk, but the bird didn't return that day.



Figure 2. Broad-billed Hummingbird (*Cynanthus latirostris*) visiting April Blair's feeder, Humboldt, IA. 18 October 2021. Photograph by Jacob Newton, Ottosen, Iowa.

On the morning of 19 October 2021, April contacted me and informed me that the bird had returned. A few people observed the bird that morning, but the bird was last seen at approximately 10:30AM, with about ten individuals other than April and her husband observing the bird overall. This is the second record for Broad-billed Hummingbird in Iowa, and the first one observed during fall migration in the state; it is a rare vagrant to the Midwest (Montgomery and Hertz, 2011). However, in May 2021 three additional records for this species were reported in the Midwest: one of a male in Holden, Missouri; one of male at LaBagh Woods near Chicago, Illinois, and a female at

Wilderness Park, Lancaster, Nebraska (eBird.org, 2021). It would appear that there were a small number of this species in the Midwest this Spring, and perhaps some hung around through the summer. Unfortunately, the nature of vagrancy makes such assertions impossible to verify. I would like to thank April Blair for reporting this amazing bird, and her willingness to host other birders to visit. Reports like this one both improve our enjoyment of the avian world and our knowledge of avian movements, even when, at times, those movements remain inscrutable to us.

#### LITERATURE CITED:

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## Field Reports—Fall 2021

*Brandon Caswell and Dean Hester*



*Brandon Caswell (left) and Dean Hester (right)*

### WEATHER

The year 2021 was the sixth warmest on record, breaking out of a pattern that saw 2019 and 2020 in the top three warmest all-time. For the continental US, only a small area off the coast of New England saw record warmth. The years 2013-2021 all rank among the ten-warmest years on record

since records began in 1880. The Northern Hemisphere's land and ocean surface temperatures was sixth highest on record, with land area (only) producing the third warmest on record (2020 was the warmest). Ocean heat content, which describes the amount of heat stored in the upper-levels of the ocean, was record high in 2021, surpassing the previous high set in 2020.

Closer to home, August in Iowa was closer to average for warmth and precipitation. Temperatures averaged 72.9 °F (1.9 °F above average), while precipitation totaled 4.56 inches (0.44 in above average). August started cooler than average statewide; temperatures increased gradually with the last week being warmest. Multiple stations in the south-central part of the state recorded a temperature of 98 °F on the 24th, which averaged 15 °F above normal. A monthly low temperature of 45 °F was recorded on the 14th in Forest City *Winnebago* and Webster City *Hamilton*, which was 14 °F below normal. Many of the counties of Iowa's northern half reported above-average precipitation. Multiple National Weather Service co-op stations reported their wettest August on record. Southern station reported near to below-normal precipitation; some with more than two-inch deficits.

Temperatures and precipitation were nowhere near record-level in September. Temperatures averaged 66.7 °F (3.0 °F above average), while precipitation totaled 1.80 inches (1.68 inches above average). September was warmer with all National Weather Service (NWS) co-op stations reporting above average monthly temperatures. The warmest temperatures were found across southern Iowa with positive departures above 4 °F. The highest recorded temperature of 95 °F was in Red Oak *Montgomery* on the 28th, 21 °F above normal. Atlantic *Cass*, Audubon *Audubon*, and Guthrie Center *Guthrie* all reported the month's low temperature of 32 °F on the 25th, 14 °F below normal. Rainfall was lower statewide with only the far northwest corner reporting above average totals. The driest areas were central, south-central, and eastern Iowa, which all saw precipitation departures approaching three inches.

October was the 8th wettest on record in 149 years of statewide records,

but was not alarming temperature-wise. Temperatures averaged 55.6 °F (4.6 °F above normal), while precipitation totaled 4.88 in (2.19 in above normal). The state experienced unseasonably warm conditions throughout the month, with the highest departures of 6 °F in the northeast. Unseasonably warm minimum temperatures prevented statewide killing freeze (sub 28-degree F temperatures) in October. Northwest and northern Iowa saw temperatures below 28 °F on the 16th and 17th and 22nd and 23rd, respectively. Davenport Municipal Airport *Scott* reported the month's high temperature of 87 °F on the 1st, 16 °F above normal. Elkader *Clayton* and Mason City Municipal Airport *Cerro Gordo* reported the month's low temperature of 23 °F on the 23rd, 11 °F below the normal average. Unseasonably wet conditions were brought statewide at the end of October by an active storm track. The rain was much-needed, helping recharge soil-moisture profiles and average stream flows.

Temperatures in November averaged 39.2 °F (2.3 °F above normal), while precipitation totaled 0.92 inch or 0.90 inch below normal. Like October, November temperatures were unseasonably warm over all of the state, with positive departures of up to 4 °F in western Iowa. Eastern Iowa experienced near-normal to slightly warmer than average temperatures. The first widespread killing freeze occurred on the morning of the 2nd, which marked the end of the growing season. Lake Park *Dickinson* recorded the month's high of 73 °F on the 6th, 25 °F above normal. Multiple northern stations reported 8 °F on the 26th, which was the lowest temperature for the month (12 °F below normal). November was much less active weather-wise than October. Only portions of northeast and south-central Iowa reported above-normal precipitation. Only six stations recorded snow measuring at least one inch.

## HABITAT and GENERAL TRENDS

Grassland bird habitat in Iowa continues to disappear. From 1990 to 2020 Iowa has lost 2,637 square miles of habitat, which would be equivalent to a strip 9 miles wide stretching from Omaha to Davenport (Bogenschutz and Wilson 2021). A snowier 2020-2021 winter, especially in January and February, likely hurt Ring-necked Pheasant, Gray Partridge, and Northern Bobwhite populations. Bobwhite were likely affected the most when a pattern of snow and cold followed by thaw and freeze cycles occurred until the end of February. Southeastern Iowa was seriously affected by this weather, which undoubtedly reduced pheasant and especially bobwhite survival. However, Spring 2021 was cooler, and one of the driest in over a quarter-century, which probably favored game bird reproduction (Bogenschutz & Wilson 2021).

September 4th will go down as one of the more memorable dates in Iowa bird records history. On this day all three species of jaegers were recorded in Iowa along reservoirs of the Des Moines River. A Parasitic was found at Red Rock Res *Marion*, while a Pomarine and a Long-tailed were found at Saylorville Res *Polk*. These finds reiterate why the Labor Day weekend can be one of the best times to find rare birds in Iowa.

The 8 individual Western Sandpipers seen at Red Rock Res *Marion* in



August and September seem to fit a very recent pattern being seen also in Illinois, that is, groups of Western Sandpipers, not just singles, being seen during migration.

It is hard to determine from Iowa data whether the interior population of Least Terns had improved nesting success in 2021. However, the large pulse of post-breeding dispersal of adults and juveniles 8-13 August hints at such.

Fish Crow was once again observed by many at Saylorville Res *Polk*. The first report was late July and the last was mid-October. The crows almost certainly bred, but not enough evidence was obtained to confirm the first official breeding record for Iowa.

## UNUSUAL SPECIES

August saw four casual species, including Rufous Hummingbird, Fish Crow, Black-headed Grosbeak, and Red Knot. The month of September was best with all three species of jaegers on the same day, undoubtedly the first time that has ever occurred in Iowa's historical record. Pomarine and Long-tailed are accidental, while Parasitic is casual. Other casual species included California Gull and Varied Thrush. October saw the casual Red Phalarope. A Short-billed Gull was the first since January 2012. The 2nd state record for Broad-billed Hummingbird also occurred. Lastly, November included two casuals, Rufous Hummingbird and Mottled Duck.

## SPECIES DATA

All CAPS – Casual or Accidental species. \* – documented. County names are in italics. Full names of contributors are at the end of the article. Abbreviations used: **ad** – adult, **AHHP** – Ada Hayden Heritage Park, **CP** – county park, **DNWR** – DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge, **ERVP** – East River Valley Park, **GGHW** – Grammer Grove hawk watch, **HHW** – Hitchcock hawk watch, **INHS** – Illinois Natural History Survey, **juv** – juvenile, **L** – lake, **L&D** – lock and dam, **M** – marsh, **m.ob.** – many observers, **NC** – nature center, **NM** – national monument, **NW&FR** – national wildlife and fish refuge, **NWR** – national wildlife refuge, **P** – park, **ph** – photo, **R** – river, **RA** – recreation area, **Res** – reservoir, **RP** – research park, **Sl** – slough, **SP** – state park, **SRA** – state recreation area, **TELC** – Tedesco Environmental Learning Center, **Tr** – trail, **USFWS** – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, **USNWR** – Union Slough National Wildlife Refuge, **W** – wetland, **WA** – wildlife area, **WMA** – Wildlife Management Area, **WPA** – waterfowl production area.



**Black-bellied Whistling-Duck:**

All: two were at Kattleson-Hogsback WPA *Dickinson* 2 Aug (TMH, ABu).

**Snow Goose:** As expected, the higher counts were in westernmost Iowa. There were 9000 at DNWR *Harrison* on 23 Nov (USFWS). There were 5720 at Hitchcock NC *Pottawattamie* 21 Nov (SM). Another 2200 were at Nobles Lake WMA *Harrison* 25 Nov (CSt).

**Ross's Goose:** A high of 12 at Hitchcock NC *Pottawattamie* 21 Nov (SM).

**Greater White-fronted Goose:**

A high of 20,000 was at Browns Lake WMA *Woodbury* 19 Oct (GLV). There were 19,000 at DNWR *Harrison* 23 Nov (USFWS).



*Trumpeter Swans, Bjorkboda Marsh, Hamilton, 2 November 2021. Photograph by Doug Harr, Ogden, IA.*

**Trumpeter Swan:** A large concentration early in the season was 50 at USNWR *Kossuth* 22 Aug (IB). A sizable count of 180 were at Amana Lily Pond *Iowa* 22 Nov, which ramped up to 500 at the same location by the season's end on 30 Nov (DRa). Some other large counts over 50 were 86 at Dale Maffitt Res *Polk* 26 Nov (RJT), 70 at Cone M WMA *Louisa* 28 Nov (HL, PL), 58 near Bob Pyle M *Story* 28 Nov (EEO),

and 67 at Otter Creek M WMA *Tama* 28 Nov (ASp).

**Tundra Swan:** There were 800 at Pool 9 *Allamakee* 21 Nov (JMc). Away from Northeastern Iowa, there was one at DNWR *Harrison* 21 Nov (ThD, PaP), 2 at L Ponderosa *Poweshiek* 22 Nov (MKS, CPL), 2 at Dale Maffitt Res *Polk* 26 Nov (RJT), and one at Little Swan L *Dickinson* 26 Nov (BrMu).

**Wood Duck:** The high count was 150 at Eagle Point P *Clinton* 3 Oct (MR).

**Blue-winged Teal:** A high count of 2455 were at Pool 19 *Lee* 10 Sep (INHS). The last report was 2 at Red Rock Res *Marion* 16 Nov (DaW).

**Cinnamon Teal:** No observations.

**Northern Shoveler:** The first observations were all on 21 Aug, which included 7 at Waterworks Prairie P *Johnson* (DaBo), 4 at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB), 3 east of West Branch *Cedar* (SMF), and 5 at Hawkeye WMA *Johnson* (MS). The high was 1745 at Pool 19 *Lee* 9 Nov (INHS).

**Gadwall:** The first observation was 3 at Kiowa M *Sac* 13 Aug (Michael J. Morris). The high was 3655 at Pool 19 *Lee* 26 Oct (INHS). Another notable count away from the Mississippi R was 2600 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 11 Oct (BE).

**American Wigeon:** An early report was a single at Harmon L *Winnebago* 5 Aug (RAS). The next earliest was 3 at McHugh W *Boone* 17 Sep (WO). The high was 450 at Pool 19 *Lee* 9 Nov (INHS). Another notable count was 200 at Green Island WMA *Jackson* 29 Oct (LoKl).

**Mallard:** Along the Missouri R, the peak was 29,919 at DNWR *Har-*

*risson* 17 Nov (USFWS). Numbers started picking up with 10,100 at Pool 17 *Louisa* 15 Nov and 13,550 at Pool 18 *Des Moines* 30 Nov (INHS). A notable count in Central Iowa was 6700 at Red Rock Res *Marion* 20 Nov (JG).

**American Black Duck:** The first observation was a single at Saylorville Res *Polk* 21 Oct (RLC). Northeastern Iowa continues to have the most impressive counts with a high of 16 at Pool 9 *Allamakee* 13 Nov (CPL).

**MOTTLED DUCK:** A first county record was found at Lake Ridge Pond *Johnson* 28 Nov (\*MHB-ph, \*CRE-ph, \*BCC-ph, \*CT-ph, \*JMc-ph, \*EIW-ph, m.ob.), seen off and on for 15 days.

**Northern Pintail:** The high count along the Mississippi R was 3560 at Pool 19 *Lee* 26 Oct (INHS).

**Green-winged Teal:** The first report was 25 at USNWR *Kossuth* 14 Aug (MWe). There were 4029 at DNWR *Harrison* 23 Nov (USFWS). The peak was 8900 at Pool 19 *Lee* 15 Nov (INHS).

**Canvasback:** The first report was a lone drake at Deere Dike *Dubuque* 6 Aug (DAS). Regular sightings picked up after a single at Hawkeye WMA *Johnson* 12 Sep (AdB). The high count was 51,250 at Pool 19 *Lee* 30 Nov (INHS).

**Redhead:** The first sighting was 10 at Stone SP *Woodbury* 31 Aug (MaRu). Two notable counts 18 Nov were 150 at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC) and 120 at L Manawa *Pottawattamie* (KH). The high was 400 Pool 19 *Lee* 30 Nov.

**Ring-necked Duck:** The first sighting was a single west of Denver

*Bremer* 3 Oct (KCR). The high count was 10,200 at Pool 9 *Allamakee* 13 Nov (CPL). There were 2975 at Pool 17 *Louisa* 30 Nov (INHS).

**Greater Scaup:** All: one at Hawkeye WMA *Johnson* 3 Nov (TE), up to 2 were at Saylorville Res *Polk* 16-25 Nov (AB, CW, RLC).

**Lesser Scaup:** The first was a single at Prairie Lakes P *Black Hawk* 30 Oct (DGE). There were 3400 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 17 Nov (AB). The high count was 27,525 at Pool 19 *Lee* 22 Nov (INHS).

**Surf Scoter:** All: one at L Manawa *Pottawattamie* 14 Oct (KH), 2 at Swan Lake SP *Carroll* 25 Oct (MTW), which grew to 4 by 29 Oct (MTW, m.ob.) with 3 last observed 8 Nov (MTW), one at Pleasant Creek RA *Linn* 29 Oct (JF), 4 at Deere Dike *Dubuque* 30 Oct (MC, DAS, TM), 2 at Hawkeye WMA *Johnson* 2 Nov (JF), one at Eagle Point P *Clinton* 9 Nov (JF), one at Saylorville Res *Polk* 14 Nov (SJD), 4 at Spirit L *Dickinson* 20 Nov (SJD), one at Saylorville Res *Polk* 23 Nov (AB), one at Red Rock Res *Marion* 24 Nov (JG), 2 including an adult male at Saylorville Res *Polk* 24 Nov (AB, RLC, RJT, SJD).

**White-winged Scoter:** All: 2 at Coralville Res *Johnson* 29 Oct to 11 Nov (JMc, JF, m.ob.), one at Purple Martin L *Polk* 29 Oct (JG), 1-10 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 29 Oct to 14 Nov (AB, SSP, RJT, TJD, KP, SJD) with the high of 10 on 1 Nov, one at Twelve Mile L *Union* 26 Nov (JG).

**Black Scoter:** All: 2 at Clear L *Cerro Gordo* 17 Oct (RGo), 2 adult males at Rock Creek SP *Jasper* 30 Oct (JF), one at Deere Dike *Dubuque* 30 Oct (DAS, TM), 3 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 31 Oct (SJD, RJT, TJD),



one at Saylorville Res *Polk* 3 Nov (SJD, RLC), one at L&D 14 *Scott* 22-27 Nov (BCC, WGH).

**Long-tailed Duck:** All: one at Pleasant Creek SP *Linn* 26 Oct (WV, CT), 2 at Clear L *Cerro Gordo* 31 Oct (RGo), one at Saylorville Res *Polk* 14 Nov (SJD), one at Deere Dike *Dubuque* 20 Nov (TM), 2 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 23 Nov (MP, JG, AB, JB, RJT), one at Lindsay P *Scott* 26 Nov (KP), 2 at Deere Dike *Dubuque* 28 Nov (CT); an astounding 8 at Swan Lake SP *Carroll* 30 Nov (MTW, WO, VW, DCH, DRS).

**Bufflehead:** The first report was 2 at George Wyth SP *Black Hawk* 16 Oct (AIB). The high was 825 at Pool 19 *Lee* 30 Nov (INHS).

**Common Goldeneye:** The first report was 2 at Red Rock Res *Marion* 3 Nov (MP). The high was 2920 at Pool 19 *Lee* 30 Nov (INHS).

**Hooded Merganser:** The high was 134 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 20 Nov (AMcP).

**Common Merganser:** The first report was 2 at Green Island WMA *Jackson* 30 Oct (RAS). The high was 500 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 28-29 Nov (RLC).

**Red-breasted Merganser:** The first report was one at A.Y. McDonald P *Dubuque* 24 Oct (TM). The high was 132 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 21 Nov (AB).

**Northern Bobwhite:** The 2021 statewide index fell to 0.38 birds per route, which was a huge fall from 0.74 in 2020. This was the fifth lowest bobwhite index in 60 years of surveys. Two months of ice cover and subzero temperatures in January and February 2021, in southern parts of Iowa, led to the decline. Drought

conditions in spring and summer also likely had negative impacts on bobwhite reproduction (Bogenschutz and Wilson 2021).

**Ruffed Grouse:** No observations.

**Gray Partridge:** Count was virtually unchanged from 2020 with 2.05 birds per 30 miles. Northwestern and North Central regions showed upward trends, while Northeastern and East Central had declining trends. Better counts came from *Butler*, *Cerro Gordo*, *Chickasaw*, *Delaware*, *Emmet*, *Grundy*, *Hamilton*, *Hancock*, *Hardin*, *Palo Alto*, *Story*, and *Wright* (Bogenschutz and Wilson 2021).

**Ring-necked Pheasant:** The statewide pheasant index was 20.1 birds per route, which was nearly identical to 2020. Most regions showed little to no change, but North Central and Central regions were statistically higher, and the Southeastern region was lower (Bogenschutz and Wilson 2021).

**Pied-billed Grebe:** The high was 86 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 5 Sep (AB).

**Horned Grebe:** The first was a single at Pleasant Creek SRA *Linn* 14 Sep (WV, BCC). The high was 40 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 9 Nov (AB).

**Red-necked Grebe:** All: one at Hawkeye WMA *Johnson* 18 Sep (AdB), 2 at Red Rock Res *Marion* 6 Nov (JG), one at Clear L *Cerro Gordo* 16 Nov (RGo), one at Twelve Mile L *Union* 21 Nov (JG), one at Red Rock Res *Marion* 30 Nov (JF).

**Eared Grebe:** The first was a single at Red Rock Res *Marion* 9 Sep (JF). The last was a single at the same location 20 Nov (JG).



**Western Grebe:** All: one at Swan Lake SP *Carroll* 1 Nov (MTW, VW, DRS, DTh) and up to 3 from 1-4 Nov at Deere Dike *Dubuque* (TM, DAS, CKr), up to 3 at L Manawa *Pottawattamie* 6-11 Nov (EWe, SWe, KH, JoCo), one at State M *Sac* 9 Nov (IB), 5 at South Twin L *Calhoun* 9 Nov (IB), one at Union L *Union* 21 Nov (JG).

**White-winged Dove:** A single was at Bird Haven in Spirit Lake *Dickinson* 20 Oct (JAN-ph).

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** The last was a single at Saylorville WMA *Dallas* 10 Oct (RLC).

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** Reported in 10 counties. The last was a single at TELC *Story* 28 Sep (SSP).

**Common Nighthawk:** Reported in 50 counties. The high was 200 at Coralville Res *Johnson* 6 Sep (AC). The last was one in Ames *Story* 10 Oct (SSP).

**Chuck-will's-widow:** A single was at Folsom Point Preserve *Mills* 13 Aug (MaTh).

**Eastern Whip-poor-will:** A single was at a private Mason City residence *Cerro Gordo* 30 Aug to 5 Sep (RGo).

**Chimney Swift:** Reported in 59 counties. The high was 1228 going to roost in a chimney in Waterloo *Black Hawk* 11 Sep (TSS). The last report was a single at HHW *Pottawattamie* 13 Oct (CSt).

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** The last was a single in Winterset *Madison* 10 Oct (SBa).

**RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD:** An adult male was in Cedar Rapids *Linn* 15-18 Aug (\*BCC-ph, \*EIW-ph, \*GDW-ph, m.ob.). A juv female was at a private residence in Dubuque

*Dubuque* 19-28 Nov (\*KJAB-ph, \*DAS-rec, TM, CKr, OK).

**BROAD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD:** An adult male was present in Humboldt *Humboldt* 13-19 Oct (\*ABl, \*AMJ-ph, \*JAN-ph, \*CW-ph, \*DCJ-ph, \*POR-ph, m.ob.). This was the 2nd state record (see article p 1).

**KING RAIL:** No observations.

**Virginia Rail:** All; 5 at USNWR *Kossuth* 7 Aug (AYa), one at Big Wall Lake WMA *Wright* 29 Aug (JG), one at Chain-O-Lakes WMA *Linn* 4 Oct (JE).

**Sora:** The last were one at Sedan Bottoms WMA *Appanoose* 22 Oct (TNJ) and one at Luton WMA *Woodbury* 22 Oct (JC).

**Common Gallinule:** All: up to 6 were at Cone Marsh WMA *Louisa* 22 Aug to 25 Sep as a result of breeding (DGu, CT, SRa).

**American Coot:** The high was 11,660 at Pool 19 *Lee* 9 Nov (INHS).

**Yellow Rail:** No observations.

**Sandhill Crane:** The high was 106 at Green Island WMA *Jackson* 21 Nov (TM). Some other notable counts were 82 in rural *Worth* 29 Oct (TaL), 73 at Cone Marsh WMA *Louisa* 7 Nov (DGu), and 76 at Sweet Marsh WMA *Bremer* 8 Nov (BLP).

**Black-necked Stilt:** All: A continuing summer family of 6, with two adults and four juvs, were observed at Hawkeye WMA *Johnson* on 6 Aug (JF). The last observation of this family was 5 at Hawkeye WMA on 23 Aug (RoH, KaH). A single observed at USNWR *Kossuth* 17 Oct (MCK) was a new record late sighting.

**American Avocet:** A high of 21 were at Hawkeye WMA *Johnson* 6-12 Aug (JF, m.ob.). The last obser-

vation was 15 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 8 Nov (SJD). Reported in 8 counties.

**Black-bellied Plover:** The first seasonal observation was a single at Red Rock Res *Marion* 17 Aug (SHo). The high was 20 at Little Swan L *Dickinson* 12 Sep (JTi). The last sighting was 2 at USNWR *Kossuth* (MCK). Reported in 7 counties.

**American Golden-Plover:** The high was 17 at Deere Dike *Dubuque* 26 Sep (DAS). The last was one east of Wilson Island SP *Pottawattamie* 4 Oct (DCH). Reported in 8 counties.

**Semipalmated Plover:** The high count was 40 at Hawkeye WMA *Johnson* 21 Aug (BCC, NBe, JDM). The last was 2 at A.Y. McDonald P *Dubuque* 23 Oct (DAS). Reported in 16 counties.

**Piping Plover:** All: a single juv at Red Rock Res *Marion* 14 Aug (SJD), a different juv at Red Rock Res *Marion* 30 Aug (SJD), 3 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 3 Sep (JB, CW, AB), a different juv from the previous two at Red Rock Res *Marion* 9 Sep (SJD).

**Upland Sandpiper:** The last was a calling flyover at Hitchcock NC *Pottawattamie* 11 Sep (SM, CSt). Reported in 12 counties.

**Whimbrel:** No observations.

**Hudsonian Godwit:** All: one at Hawkeye WMA *Johnson* 9 Aug (JF), one at Amana Lily Pond *Iowa* 22 Aug (JF), 2 at Red Rock Res *Marion* 26 Aug (SJD).

**Marbled Godwit:** All: one at Red Rock Res *Marion* 14 Aug (SJD), 2 at Red Rock Res *Marion* 30 Aug (SJD), one continued 31 Aug to 3 Sep at Bob Pyle M *Story* (SJD), one was at Saylorville Res *Polk* 5 Sep (SJD, AB, RLC, KH).

**Ruddy Turnstone:** All: one was at Saylorville Res *Polk* 8 Aug (m.ob.), one was at Saylorville Res *Polk* 23 Aug (AB), one was at Red Rock Res *Marion* 12 Sep (NoN), one was at Rathbun Res *Appanoose* 19 Sep (AlB, FB), one was at Saylorville Res *Polk* 21 Oct (JB, SSP, CW).



*Ruddy Turnstone, Saylorville Reservoir, Polk, 21 October 2021. Photograph by Clayton Will, Madrid, IA.*

**RED KNOT:** Three juv were at Red Rock Res *Marion* 22-30 Aug (\*SJD-ph).

**Stilt Sandpiper:** There were a few high counts of 20: Sandhill L *Woodbury* 13 Aug, Hawkeye WMA *Johnson* 13 Aug (MaM) and 22 Aug (JE), Red Rock Res *Marion* 12 Sep (NoN). The last was one at Hawkeye WMA *Johnson* 23 Oct (MHB).

**Sanderling:** The high was 16 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 9 Sep (CW). The last report was a single at Storm L *Buena Vista* 21 Oct (DSi).

**Dunlin:** All: up to 3 at Hawkeye WMA *Johnson* 9-15 Oct (JKe, BCC, LQ, WiHu), 8 at USNWR *Kossuth* 17 Oct (MCK), 1 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 11 Nov (MRC).

**Baird's Sandpiper:** The last was one at Sheridan Meadow P *Scott* 22 Sep (RyC). Reported in 12 counties.

**Least Sandpiper:** High counts

were 200 at both Union Slough NWR *Kossuth* 6 Aug (AYa) and Red Rock Res *Marion* 11 Sep (NoN). The last was one at Grundy County L *Grundy* 24 Oct (CPL).

**White-rumped Sandpiper:**

All: one at DNWR *Harrison* 2 Aug (DWi, SeL), one at Saylorville Res *Polk* 21 Aug (SJD), one at Amana Lily Pond *Iowa* 17 Sep (JF), one at Mud L *Dubuque* 24 Oct (SJD).

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** The high was 8 at Seven Cities Sod Farm *Scott* 1 Sep (SMF). The last was 2 at Sheridan Meadows P *Scott* 14 Sep (RyC). Reported in 9 counties.



*Red Knot*, Red Rock Reservoir, Marion, 30 August 2021. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** The first half of August was a boon for this species at USNWR *Kossuth*. The high was 4000 at this location 15 Aug (MCK). The last was 2 lingering at Lewis Bottoms *Linn* 7 Nov (WV).

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** The high was 100 at Red Rock Res *Marion* 12 Sep (NoN). Another notable count was 50 at Hawkeye WMA *Johnson* 25 Aug (SMF). The last was 12 at USNWR *Kossuth* 17 Oct (MCK).

**Western Sandpiper:** All: up to 8

individuals at Red Rock Res *Marion* 7 Aug to 9 Sep were a mix of adults and juvs (SJD), one at Hawkeye WMA *Johnson* 17 Aug (JF).

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** High counts were both 6 at Red Rock Res *Marion* 9 Aug (DaW) and Hawkeye WMA *Johnson* 14 Aug (SMF). Reported in 7 counties.



*White-rumped Sandpiper*, Saylorville Reservoir, Polk, 21 August 2021. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.

**Long-billed Dowitcher:** The first was a single at Maskunkya M *Mahaska* 5 Sep (DCJ). The high was 62 at USNWR *Kossuth* 17 Oct (MCK). Reported in 19 counties.

**American Woodcock:** The last was flushed from a wildflower garden in a yard in Liscomb *Marshall* 29 Oct (MP). Reported in 5 counties.

**Wilson's Snipe:** The high was 54 at Otter Creek M *Tama* 27 Sep (DP). Another notable count was 44 at Sandbar Sl *Dickinson* 27 Sep (JTi). Reported in 36 counties.

**Spotted Sandpiper:** The last was one at Mt. Auburn Bridge access *Benton* 25 Oct (WV). Reported in 48 counties.

**Solitary Sandpiper:** Highs of 20 were at both Maskunkya M *Mahaska* 1 Aug (JaJ) and Effigy Mounds NM



*Allamakee* 25 Aug (TFI). Another notable tally was 17 at Hayesville Bend WMA *Keokuk* 14 Aug (SSP). The last was at River Junction P *Johnson* 30 Sep (LaC). Reported in 47 counties.



*Solitary Sandpiper, Errington Marsh, Polk, 29 August 2021. Photograph by Tom Dougherty, Urbandale, IA.*

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** High numbers continued over from the summer with a high of 800 at USNWR *Kossuth* 1 Aug. The last was one at Montrose M *Lee* 3 Nov (JWR). Reported in 39 counties.

**Willet:** All: 2 at Tedesco Connector Tr *Story* 6 Aug (SSP), 1 at Hawkeye WMA *Johnson* 5 Sep (JF).

**Greater Yellowlegs:** The high was 60 at Sandbar Sl *Dickinson* 9 Oct (JTi). The last was one at the same location 7 Nov (JTi). Reported in 33 counties.

**Wilson's Phalarope:** The high was 5 at USNWR *Kossuth* 1 Aug (MCK). The last was one at Red Rock Res *Marion* 12 Sep (NoN). Reported in 6 counties.

**Red-necked Phalarope:** The first were 3 at USNWR *Kossuth* 1 Aug (MCK). The high was 6 at Red Rock Res *Marion* 12 Sep (NoN). The last was one at USNWR *Kossuth* 17 Oct (MCK). Reported in 9 counties.

**RED PHALAROPE:** An adult

was at Saylorville Res *Polk* 2 Oct (\*SJD).

**POMARINE JAEGER:** A dark morph adult was at Saylorville Res *Polk* 4-6 Sep (\*AB-ph, \*BCC-ph, \*JB-ph, \*CW-ph, \*CPL-ph, m.ob.).

**PARASITIC JAEGER:** A light morph juv was at Red Rock Res *Marion* 4 Sep (\*SJD).

**LONG-TAILED JAEGER:** An adult was at Saylorville Res *Polk* 4-7 Sep (\*AB-ph, \*BCC-ph, \*JB-ph, \*CW-ph, \*MHB-ph, \*CPL-ph, \*MTW-ph).

**Black-legged Kittiwake:** No observations.

**Sabine's Gull:** An alternate adult was at Swan Lake SP *Carroll* 3 Sep (VW-ph). Juvs were seen at Red Rock Res *Marion* from 11 Sep to 3 Oct with a high of 3 on 18 Sep (SJD, JF). A juv was at Saylorville Res *Polk* 12-18 Sep (RJT, JB, AB). A juv was at Coralville Res *Johnson* 28 Sep to 3 Oct (JF, BCC, DP, JKe, ElW).

**Bonaparte's Gull:** Two very crisp juvs were at Big Creek SP *Polk* 7-9 Aug (AB-ph, RJT-ph). The high was 753 at Red Rock Res *Marion* 7 Nov (AB).

**Laughing Gull:** A basic adult was at Red Rock Res *Marion* 9-12 Sep (JF, JG).

**Franklin's Gull:** The high was 15,000 at L Manawa *Pottawattamie* 14 Oct (KH). Another respectable count was 9000 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 6 Oct (RLC). Counts of 1000 or higher occurred from 6 Sep to 31 Oct (m.ob.). Reported in 41 counties.

**SHORT-BILLED GULL:** A 1st cycle was at Coralville Res *Johnson* 13-17 Oct (\*MHB-ph, \*BCC-ph, \*CW-ph). This was a first county re-

cord.

**CALIFORNIA GULL:** A basic adult was in Dubuque *Dubuque* 25 Sep (TM). This was a first county record.

**Herring Gull:** The first was a single at Iowa Lakeside Laboratory *Dickinson* 29 Aug (JTi). One was along the Mississippi R just south of Princeton *Scott* 4 Sep (RyC).

**Iceland Gull:** The first was a single at Red Rock Res *Marion* 30 Oct (JG). One was at L&D 13 *Clinton* on 3 Nov (JF).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** The first was one at Rice Lake SP *Winnebago* 5 Sep (RGo). One was at L&D 15 *Scott* 12 Sep (SMF).

**Glaucous Gull:** Two were at Mason City *Cerro Gordo* near a landfill 23 Nov (RGo, BVL).

**GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL:** No observations.



*Franklin's Gull, Storm Lake, Buena Vista, 1 August 2021. Photograph by Dana Siefer, Storm Lake, IA.*

**Least Tern:** All: 3 adults at US-NWR *Kossuth* 8 Aug (SJD), 1 adult at Tuttle Lake WA *Emmet* 8 Aug (SJD), 1 adult at Mud L *Clay* 8 Aug (SJD), 2 adults at Saylorville Res *Polk* 8 Aug (AB, m.ob.), one juv at Big Creek SP *Polk* 8 Aug (AB), one

adult at Storm L *Buena Vista* 8 Aug (DSi), one at Hawkeye WMA *Johnson* 9 Aug (JF), one adult and 2 juvs at Amana Lily Pond *Iowa* 10 Aug (JV, WV, MWe) with an adult and a different juv at this same location 11 Aug (JF), 2 at Coralville Res *Johnson* 10 Aug (MHB), 3 adults and 4 juvs at Red Rock Res *Marion* 10 Aug (SJD), one adult at Maskunkya M *Ma-haska* 13 Aug (WV).



*Ring-billed Gull, Red Rock Reservoir, Marion, 10 November 2021. Photograph by Ken Saunders II, Grinnell, IA.*

**Caspian Tern:** The high was 101 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 4 Sep (BE). The last was one at Cordova P *Marion* 9 Oct (AEu).

**Black Tern:** The high was 35 at Hawkeye WMA *Johnson* 25 Aug (SMF). The last was 4 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 7 Sep (RJT).

**Common Tern:** All: 4 at Keg Creek I-29 WMA *Mills* 21 Aug (KH, BOW), 7 at Rock Creek CP *Clinton* (MR), up to 3 at Red Rock Res *Marion* 12-17 Sep (JG, JF, WV), one at Coralville Res *Johnson* 26 Sep (JF), one at A.Y. McDonald P *Dubuque* 11 Oct (TM).

**Forster's Tern:** There were 27 at L Manawa *Pottawattamie* 25 Aug (KH). The high was 32 at Red Rock

Res *Marion* 12 Sep (JG). The last was one at Saylorville Res *Polk* 21 Oct (SSP).

**Red-throated Loon:** All: up to 2 juvs were at Saylorville Res *Polk* 31 Oct to 24 Nov (AB, SJD, m.ob.), up to 2 juvs at Red Rock Res *Marion* 6-28 Nov (JG, SJD, AB, MDR, JF, CPL, MKS).

**Pacific Loon:** All: one juv at Saylorville Res *Polk* 25 Oct to 24 Nov (SJD, AB, m.ob.), one juv at Red Rock Res *Marion* 7-24 Nov (SJD, AB, JG).

**Common Loon:** An early outlier was a single at Hawkeye WMA *Johnson* 13 Aug (HPo). The next was a single at Saylorville Res *Polk* 6 Sep (EEO). The high was 83 at Red Rock Res *Marion* 6 Nov (JG).

**Double-crested Cormorant:** The high was 2400 at Polk City WA *Polk* 12 Oct (AB). There were 1965 at Pool 18 *Des Moines* 23 Sep (INHS).

**Neotropic Cormorant:** One was at L&D 18 *Des Moines* 22 Nov (CoDo, BCC).



*American White Pelican, Red Rock Reservoir, Marion, 10 November 2021. Photograph by Ken Saunders II, Grinnell, IA.*

**American White Pelican:** The high was 2700 at HHW *Pottawattamie* 18 Sep (CSt, EWe). Other large counts were 2000 at Hawkeye WMA

*Johnson* 1 Sep (LQ) and 1700 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 4 Sep (SSP).

**American Bittern:** All: one was at Arnolds Park *Dickinson* 5 Sep (TSz), one was at Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt *Polk* 16 Sep (RLC), one was at Sweet Marsh WMA *Bremer* 5 Oct (JaKe), one was at George Wyth SP *Black Hawk* 3 Nov (MWe).

**Least Bittern:** All: one was at Cone M WMA *Louisa* 1 Aug (DGu), one was at Mud L *Dubuque* 2 Aug (KJAB), one was at Little Storm L *Buena Vista* 2-4 Aug (DSi).

**Great Blue Heron:** The high was 100 at L&D 11 *Dubuque* 4 Sep (Sch). There were 67 at USNWR *Kossuth* 8 Aug (DCH).

**Great Egret:** The high was 55 at Hawkeye WMA *Johnson* 28 Aug (BCC). The last was a single at South Sabula Lakes P *Jackson* 1 Nov (DBe).

**Snowy Egret:** No observations.

**LITTLE BLUE HERON:** One continuing individual from the summer pair was at Maskunkya M *Ma-haska* 1 Aug (PBa, BBa).

**Cattle Egret:** All: 3 at Deere Dike *Dubuque* 25 Aug (EHa), 1 at Big Creek SP *Polk* 27 Aug (TJD), 1 at Swan Lake SP *Carroll* 4 Sep (DSi), up to 25 at A.Y. McDonald P *Dubuque* 13-21 Oct (DAS, TM, m.ob.), 8 at Dubuque River Walk *Dubuque* 21 Oct, 2 at Green Island WMA *Jackson* 23 Oct (TM), one at Lake Macbride SP *Johnson* 11 Nov (JLF).

**Green Heron:** The last was a single at Hawkeye WMA *Johnson* 7 Oct (JMc).

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** All: one at Rapp P *Page* 8 Aug (BHu), one at Little Storm L *Buena Vista* 23



Aug to 7 Sep (DSi), one at Ledges SP Boone 30 Aug (DCH), one at Swan L Buchanan 21 Aug (WV), one at AHHP Story 16 Oct (SSP), one at F.W. Kent P Johnson 26 Oct (KDr), one near Missouri Valley Harrison 30 Oct (POR), one at Big Woods L Black Hawk 8 Nov (LFi).

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:**

All: up to 9 were continuing from the previous summer spectacle at Maskunkya M Mahaska 1-27 Aug (DCJ, m.ob.), one at Amana Lily P Iowa 12 Aug (JF), one at Hayesville Bend WMA Keokuk 14 Aug (SSP).

**Glossy Ibis:** No observations.

**White-faced Ibis:** All: 2 at US-NWR Kossuth 17 Oct (MCK), one at Amana Lily P Iowa 18 Oct (JF).

**Turkey Vulture:** GGHW Marshall had its second highest fall seasonal total at 782. There were 114 recorded at this hawk watch 12 Oct (GGHW). The high was 558 at HHW Pottawattamie 13 Oct followed by another respectable count of 404 on 14 Oct (HHW). The last report was one at Lansing WMA Allamakee 14 Nov (MKS, CPL).



Turkey Vulture, Saylorville Lake, Polk, 16 September 2021. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.

**Osprey:** High counts of 5 were

seen at HHW Pottawattamie on both 7 Sep and 12 Sep (HHW). The last sighting was a single at Saylorville Res Polk 7 Nov (SCS, KVS).

**SWALLOW-TAILED KITE:**

A single was observed at Goeldner Woods CP Madison 6 Sep (MaD).

**Golden Eagle:** All: one was at Jordan Family WA Story 15 Oct (MKS, CPL), singles were observed at HHW Pottawattamie 17 Oct, 21 Oct, and 22 Oct with two observed at this location 25 Oct (HHW), one was at Big Creek WMA Polk 22 Oct (RJT), one was at Green Island WMA Jackson 23 Oct (TM), one was in northeast Pocahontas 10 Nov (JAN); one was at L&D 9 Allamakee 13 Nov (MKS, CPL), one was at Blackhawk Point WMA Allamakee 14 Nov (CPL), singles were observed at GGHW Marshall 17 Nov and 27 Nov with two observed at this location 18 Nov (GGHW), one was just east of Williamsburg along I-80 Iowa 18 Nov (DaW), one was along the Des Moines River Corridor Boone 23 Nov (DCH), 2 were south of Bear Creek Campground Allamakee 30 Nov (CJG).

**Northern Harrier:** Daily counts started peaking at HHW Pottawattamie in mid-October with 13 on 12



Northern Harrier, Little Storm Lake, Buena Vista, 17 October 2021. Photograph by Dana Siefer, Storm Lake, IA.

Oct, 14 on 16 Oct, 13 on 22 Oct, and 14 on 25 Oct (HHW).

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** The high was 75 at HHW *Pottawattamie* 12 Sep with 48 recorded at this location the following day (HHW). The second highest daily total at this location was 50 on 25 Oct (HHW). There were 38 counted at GGHW *Marshall* on both 21 Sep and 21 Oct (GGHW).

**Cooper's Hawk:** The highest daily tally of 23 was at HHW *Pottawattamie* 24 Sep (HHW).



*Cooper's Hawk, Granger, Dallas, 16 August 2021. Photograph by Merle G. Hall, Granger, IA.*

**Northern Goshawk:** Two adults were tallied at HHW *Pottawattamie* 13 Oct. A single adult was seen at this location 20 Oct (HHW).

**Bald Eagle:** The largest push was 41 at HHW *Pottawattamie* 17 Nov (HHW). There were 36 seen at GGHW *Marshall* 21 Nov (GGHW).

**Mississippi Kite:** The last sighting in the Des Moines metropolitan area *Polk* was a single juv in West Des Moines 9 Sep (RJT). A single

was observed at HHW *Pottawattamie* 1 Sep, followed by 2 on 4 Sep, followed by one 13 Sep (HHW).

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** The bulk of the dozen sightings at HHW *Pottawattamie* were from mid-September to mid-October. The high was two at this location 12 Oct (HHW).



*Red-shouldered Hawk, Riverview Rec. Area, Black Hawk, 16 October 2021. Photograph by Tom Schilke, Waterloo, IA.*

**Broad-winged Hawk:** GGHW *Marshall* had its fourth highest total ever with 1749. This was largely due to seeing 1338 at the location 21 Sep (GGHW). Only 363 were seen for the entire fall season at HHW *Pottawattamie* (HHW). There were 425 observed at Hickory Hill Park *Johnson* 21 Sep followed by 745 at this location 15 Sep (AdB).

**Swainson's Hawk:** One big push was 49 at HHW *Pottawattamie* 25 Sep (HHW). A single was at GGHW *Marshall* 25 Sep (GGHW). The only bird recorded farther east was a single at Wickiup Hill Learning Center *Linn* 23 Oct (AKo).

**Red-tailed Hawk:** Daily counts exceeding 100 at HHW *Pottawattamie* were 115 on 14 Oct, 138 on 15 Oct, 103 on 25 Oct, and 107 on 29

Oct (HHW). The period from 14-31 Oct was certainly the most active, with nearly 56% of the 1720 total Red-tailed Hawks occurring. GGHW *Marshall* had a notable 51 on 21 Oct (GGHW).



Red-tailed Hawk, F27 West of Rock Creek, Jasper, 12 October 2021. Photograph by Christopher Knisley, Colfax, IA.

**Rough-legged Hawk:** The first sighting was a single west of Cone M *Louisa* 25 Sep (HHa).

**Ferruginous Hawk:** A single was at HHW *Pottawattamie* 24 Sep (HHW).

**Barn Owl:** No observations.

**Snowy Owl:** All: one was at the Eastern Iowa Airport *Linn* 28-30 Nov (ASc, m.ob.), one was at Snake Creek Marsh WMA *Greene* 30 Nov (DCH), one was on 230th south of 200th *Kossuth* 30 Nov; one was in Urbandale *Polk* 30 Nov (KVS, SCS, JB).

**Long-eared Owl:** The first report was one at Moorehead Pioneer P *Ida* 14 Nov (MJM).

**Short-eared Owl:** The first report was a single at Green Island WMA *Jackson* 23 Oct (DBe).

**Northern Saw-whet Owl:** The first report was 3 at Hitchcock NC

*Pottawattamie* 14 Oct (CSt).

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** Some impressive counts of 416, 418, and 512 on 1 Sep, 6 Sep, 7 Sep, respectively, all at HHW *Pottawattamie* (CSt).

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** High count of 6 on 5 Oct at ERVP *Story* (SSP).

**Northern Flicker:** High of 33 on 22 Sep at Swan Lake SP *Carroll* (MTW). Twenty-five were at ERVP *Story* on 18 Sep (SSP).

**Pileated Woodpecker:** High count of 7 on 24 Aug at Rock Creek CP *Clinton* (MR). Handful of reports from far western Iowa. One at Stone SP *Woodbury* on 29 Aug (DWh). Two at DNWR *Harrison* 19 Nov (ThD, WaH). One at Waubonsie SP *Fremont* 10 Sep and another 14 Oct (JGi, DPo).



Snowy Owl, near Snake Creek WMA, Greene, 30 November 2021. Photograph by Doug Harr, Ogden, IA.

**American Kestrel:** Most sightings at HHW *Pottawattamie* were in the latter half of September. There were 9 on 20 Sep and 9 on 24 Sep (HHW). Exactly 75% of the fall sightings at this location were in September.



**Merlin:** A high of 11 was at HHW *Pottawattamie* 7 Sep (HHW).

**Peregrine Falcon:** A high of 6 was at HHW *Pottawattamie* 3 Oct (HHW). About 62% of the sightings at this location were in the month of October.

**Prairie Falcon:** All: one was at HHW *Pottawattamie* 13 Oct (HHW), one was at the Storm Lake Municipal Airport *Buena Vista* 7 Nov (DSi).

**Great Crested Flycatcher:** Last report at Massillon P *Cedar* 22 Sep (KRi, CRi).

**Eastern Kingbird:** High of 126 at Big Creek SP *Polk* on 28 Aug (CW). Numerous reports of 20-70 birds in the last week of Aug and the first week of Sep (eBird, m.ob.). Last at Cone Marsh WMA *Louisa* 27 Sep (TAB).



*Olive-sided Flycatcher*, Xavier Ave, Granger, Dallas, 1 September 2021. Photograph by Merle G. Hall, Granger, IA.

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** Reported from 38 counties. High of 5 at Clover Woods Camp *Boone* on 1 Sep (KJ) and again on 3 Sep at Dewey's Pasture WMA *Clay* (JG). Last at Stone Brooke East Tr *Story* 5 Oct (KeB).

**Eastern Wood-Pewee:** Last report at TELC *Story* 10 Oct (SSP).

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:**

Four at Big Wall Lake WMA *Wright* 29 Aug (JG). Last at Clover Woods Camp *Boone* 23 Sep (DCH, KJ).

**Acadian Flycatcher:** Three at Rock Creek CP *Clinton* 15 Aug (MR). Last at Saulsbury Bridge RA *Muscatine* 12 Sep (PL).

**Alder Flycatcher:** High of 4 at TELC *Story* and Peggy's Tr *Story* on 13 Aug and 28 Aug, respectively (SSP). Record late bird seen and heard at Hawkeye WMA *Johnson* 11 Sep (AdB). Previous record late 8 Sep.

**Willow Flycatcher:** High of 6 at Ledges SP *Boone* 8 Sep (KJ). Last a single just north of Ledges SP *Boone* 18 Sep (KJ).



*Willow Flycatcher*, Kiowa Marsh, Sac, 15 August 2021. Photograph by Dana Siefer, Storm Lake, IA.

**Least Flycatcher:** High of 16 at ERVP *Story* 29 Aug (SSP). Last was one at the same location 2 Oct (SSP).

**Eastern Phoebe:** Last was a single at Munn Woods *Story* 6 Nov (KiM).

**White-eyed Vireo:** No observations.

**Bell's Vireo:** Last observations were 12 Sep: 2 at Hawkeye WMA *Johnson* (MHB, AdB) and 1 at Cone Marsh WMA *Louisa* (JKe, DGu).



*Mottled Duck and Mallard, Lake Ridge Pond, Johnson, 28 November 2021. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*



*Rufous Hummingbird, Cedar Rapids, Linn, 19 August 2021. Photograph by Gerald White, Muscatine, IA.*



*Sandhill Cranes, Pool Slough, Allamakee, 18 November 2021. Photograph by Cathy Wittman, Clermont, IA.*



*Marbled Godwits, Red Rock Reservoir, Marion, 30 August 2021. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.*



*Western Sandpiper, Red Rock Reservoir, Marion, 7 August 2021. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.*



*Bonaparte's Gull, Big Creek SP, Polk, 7 November 2021. Photograph by Tom Dougherty, Urbandale, IA.*



*Short-billed Gull, Coralville Reservoir Dam, Johnson, 13 October 2021. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*



*Caspian Tern, Saylorville Reservoir, Polk, 14 September 2021. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.*



*Black Tern, Storm Lake, Buena Vista, 11 August 2021. Photograph by Dana Siefer, Storm Lake, IA.*



*Great Egret, Rock Creek State Park, Jasper, 27 August 2021. Photograph by Christopher Knisley, Colfax, IA.*



*Red-tailed Hawk, Nelson Park Road, Crawford, 8 November 2021. Photograph by Linda Rudolph, Coralville, IA.*



*Broad-winged Hawk, Black Hawk Creek Wildlife Center, Grundy, 16 September 2021. Photograph by Connor Langan, Waterloo, IA.*





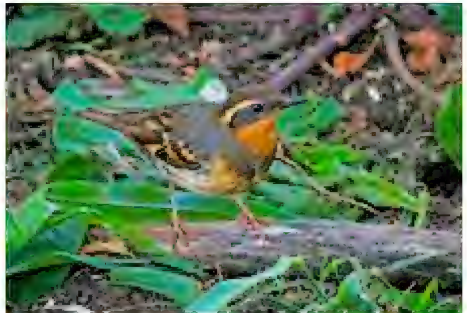
*Belted Kingfisher*, Middle River Park, Madison, 15 August 2021. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.



*Northern Flicker*, Red Rock Reservoir, Marion, 10 November 2021. Photograph by Ken Saunders II, Grinnell, IA.



*Red-eyed Vireo*, Sparks Cemetery Area, Boone, 5 September 2021. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.



*Varied Thrush*, Calkins Nature Center, Hamilton, 28 September 2021. Photograph by Doug Harr, Ogden, IA.



*Hermit Thrush*, Marion, Linn, 7 October 2021. Photograph by Jim Durbin, Marion, IA.



*Snow Bunting, Saylorville Reservoir, Polk, 23 November 2021. Photograph by Clayton Will, Madrid, IA.*



*LeConte's Sparrow, CRP 23A wetland conversion project, Sioux, 22 September 2021. Photograph by Leland Searles, Marshalltown, IA.*



*Savannah Sparrow, Burrow's Pond, Sac, 17 October 2021. Photograph by Dana Siefer, Storm Lake, IA.*



*Lincoln's Sparrow, Black Hawk Mitigation, Black Hawk, 23 September 2021. Photograph by Tom Schilke, Waterloo, IA.*



*Yellow Warbler, Granger, Dallas, 1 August 2021. Photograph by Merle G. Hall, Granger, IA.*



Reported in 23 counties.

**Yellow-throated Vireo:** Last was one 22 Sep at a private residence in Des Moines *Polk* (PJW).

**Blue-headed Vireo:** High was 7 on 21 Sep at ERVP *Story* (SSP). Recorded widely in 41 counties this fall. Last was one on 20 Oct at George Wyth SP *Black Hawk* (KCR).

**Philadelphia Vireo:** High was 5 on 11 Sep at Mines of Spain SRA *Dubuque* (TM). Last was one 7 Oct at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (JHu).



*Philadelphia Vireo*, Sparks Cemetery Area, Boone, 9 September 2021. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.

**Warbling Vireo:** Last was one 3 Oct at High Trestle Tr Bridge *Boone* (EEO).



*Warbling Vireo*, Sparks Cemetery Area, Boone, 5 September 2021. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.

**Red-eyed Vireo:** High was 45 at Water Works P *Polk* 3 Sep (RJT). 36 were seen on 7 Sep at Big Creek SP *Polk* (RJT). Abundant, many reports of 20+ individuals (eBird, m.ob.). Last was one 9 Oct at Credit Island P *Scott* (RyC).

**Loggerhead Shrike:** One at Red Rock Res *Marion* on 17 Nov (DaW).

**Northern Shrike:** First was one at Hawkeye WMA *Johnson* 18 Nov (KiP-ph, MR).

**Blue Jay:** High of 2136 at HHW *Pottawattamie* 3 Oct (CSt).

**FISH CROW:** Dozens of reports of the usual few birds at Saylorville Res *Polk* (\*JB, \*CW-ph, m.ob.). High count of 3 at this location 5 Sep (MKS, CPL) and 24 Sep (CW). Last report was a single 15 Oct (BFH).



*Fish Crow*, Saylorville Reservoir, Polk, 24 September 2021. Photograph by Clayton Will, Madrid, IA.

**Tufted Titmouse:** High was 13 at Eagle Point P *Dubuque* 29 Aug (KJAB). Absent in NW corner of the state.

**Bank Swallow:** High of 325 at Mud L *Dubuque* 2 Sep (KJAB). Another sizable count of 100 at Cone M WMA *Louisa* on 12 Sep (DGu). Multiple last reports on 18 Sep of 4 at Cone M WMA *Louisa* (DGu), 2 at



Hawkeye WMA *Johnson* (JMc), and one at HHW *Pottawattamie* (CSt).

**Tree Swallow:** High of 6000 at Pleasant Creek SRA *Linn* 13 Oct (JE). Last was 2 at Hawkeye WMA *Johnson* 7 Nov (MHB).

**Purple Martin:** Post-breeding peaks of 100 birds at DNWR *Harrison* 29 Aug (PaP) and at Okoboji *Dickinson* 3 Sep (JTi). Last were 2 at HHW *Pottawattamie* (EWe, CSt).

**Barn Swallow:** High of 350 at HHW *Pottawattamie* 21 Sep (CSt). Last was one at L Macbride *Johnson* 30 Oct (WGH).

**Cliff Swallow:** High of 250 at McHugh W on 14 Sep *Boone* (CW). Last was one at Deere Dike *Dubuque* 4 Oct (TM).

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** First on 29 Aug at Eagle Point P *Dubuque* (KJAB). High of 25 at ERVP *Story* 2 Oct (SSP).

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** First report at ERVP *Story* on 19 Sep (KeB). High of 55 at ERVP *Story* 5 Oct (SSP).

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** First report was one at Ledges SP *Boone* on 16 Aug (TMH). High of 10 at Linwood Cemetery *Dubuque* 6 Sep (KJAB).

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** High was 13 at Rock Creek CP *Clinton* 15 Aug (MR). Last was at Seminole Valley P *Linn* 18 Oct (DaB).

**House Wren:** There were 21 at ERVP *Story* 21 Sep (JoG, KF). Last was near Woodward *Boone* 20 Oct (CW-ph). This surpassed the old record late date by 13 days!

**Winter Wren:** First report at L Darling SP *Washington* 11 Sep (TE). High of 8 at Peggy's Tr *Story* 12 Oct (SSP) with another 8 at West Lake

CP *Scott* 22 Oct (SMF).

**Sedge Wren:** High of 7 at USN-WR *Kossuth* 20 Aug (AYa). Last was one at AHHP *Story* 25 Oct (BrS).

**Marsh Wren:** High was 18 at Pintail W *Hardin* on 2 Oct (CPL, MKS).

**Carolina Wren:** High was 4 at Eagle Point P *Clinton* 9 Oct (EEO).

**Gray Catbird:** Last at West Lake CP *Scott* 8 Nov (SMF).

**Brown Thrasher:** Last at Sand L *Marshall* 14 Oct (ASp).

**Eastern Bluebird:** High was 37 in rural *Webster* 23 Oct (DCH).

**Townsend's Solitaire:** ALL: one at Hitchcock NC *Pottawattamie* 12 Oct (CSt), up to 2 at Peterson P *Story* 27 Nov (EEO).

**Veery:** First report and high count of 3 at Gehrke WA *Hardin* 22 Aug (KeB). Last on 22 Sep at Mt. Auburn Bridge Access *Benton* (WV).

**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** All singles reported. First at Rock Creek CP *Clinton* 24 Aug (MR). Last at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* 7 Oct (JHu).



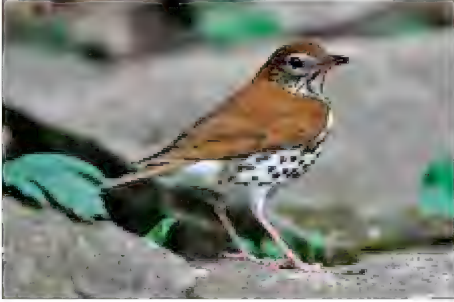
*Eurasian Tree Sparrow, Hawkeye WA, Johnson, 23 October 2021. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*

**Swainson's Thrush:** First was at Long Grove *Scott* 26 Aug (RyC). High was 12 at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* 14 Sep (AdB). Last was one at

Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* 15 Oct (WBJ).

**Hermit Thrush:** First was one at AHHP *Story* 20 Sep (WO). High of 7 at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* 7 Oct (JHu).

**Wood Thrush:** Last was one at AHHP *Story* 18 Oct (WO).



*Wood Thrush, Marion, Linn, 6 October 2021. Photograph by Jim Durbin, Marion, IA.*

**VARIED THRUSH:** A single at Calkins Nature Area *Hardin* 27-29 Sep (\*DCH-ph, m.ob.) was the only report.

**American Pipit:** First was one at HHW *Pottawattamie* 13 Aug (CSt). High of 50 at Errington Marsh WMA *Polk* 25 Oct (SeLe, DLI).

**Purple Finch:** First was 3 at Mines of Spain SRA *Dubuque* 11 Sep (TM). High of 12 at Hawkeye WMA *Johnson* 23 Oct (MHB).

**Common Redpoll:** All: one north of Terril *Dickinson* 4 Nov (LiP), one south of Rippey *Greene* 17 Nov (CR), one in Cedar Falls *Black Hawk* 24 Nov (AGi), one at HHW *Pottawattamie* 30 Nov (CSt).

**White-winged Crossbill:** Single report of one at Graceland Park Cemetery *Woodbury* 4 Nov (GLV).

**Pine Siskin:** First was one at Iowa State University *Story* 26 Aug (PMi). High of 15 at Rock Creek CP *Clinton* and Eagle Point P *Clinton*, 3

Oct and 6 Oct, respectively (MR).

**Lapland Longspur:** First was a single north of Linden *Dallas* 23 Oct (MW). High of 400 at Sandhill L *Woodbury* 16 Nov (GLV).

**Smith's Longspur:** Six reports from mid-Oct to early Nov. High was 7 between Mineola and Silver City *Mills* 10 Nov (KH).

**Snow Bunting:** First report at Saylorville Res *Polk* 27 Oct (AB). High was 16 at Savanna-Sabula Causeway *Jackson* 18 Nov (DBe).

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** Four seen at Wapello Bottoms WMA *Louisa* 19 Aug (TE). Last was one 9 Oct at Whiterock Conservancy *Guthrie* (JaJ). Reported in 15 counties.

**Lark Sparrow:** Last reported 7 Sep at CRP 23A Wetland Conversion Project *Sioux* (KVZ). Reported in 16 counties.

**Chipping Sparrow:** High was 47 on 20 Oct at a private residence in *Monona* (JC). Five last reported 15 Nov at Red Rock Res *Marion* (DaW).

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** Few Reports, mainly singles reported in 11 counties from the first week of September to late October. (eBird, m.ob.). Last was one at Hawkeye WMA *Johnson* 20 Oct (ElW).

**Field Sparrow:** Latest on 3 November at Seminole Valley P *Linn* (KiP).

**Fox Sparrow:** Well recorded from 50 counties (eBird m.ob.). Earliest was 22 Sep, tying the third earliest date, at Pammel Woods *Story* (HL). The high was 23 on 30 Oct at Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt *Polk* (ABu). Numerous reports of 15-20 individuals throughout Oct and early November from Hawkeye WMA

*Johnson* (MHB).

**American Tree Sparrow:** Earliest arrival on 18 Oct at Sheridan Meadows P *Scott* (RyC). High was 85 on 16 Nov at TELC *Story* (SSP).

**Dark-eyed Junco:** Early surge of migrants in the second and third weeks of September. Earliest on 14 Sep at Saylorville Res *Polk* (JB). High count of 229 on 31 Oct at Seminole Valley P *Linn* (CT).

**White-crowned Sparrow:** A new second earliest date 18 Sep at Hawkeye WMA *Johnson* (AdB). High counts of 24 and 26 on 17 Oct and 7 Nov, respectively, at Hawkeye WMA *Johnson* (MHB).



*Harris's Sparrow*, Purple Martin Lake Water Resource Area, Polk, 30 October 2021. Photograph by Connor Langan, Waterloo, IA.

**Harris's Sparrow:** Recorded in 37 counties. Earliest arrival on 22 Sep at a private home near Rippey *Greene* (CR). High count of 27 on 22 Oct at Luton WMA *Woodbury* (JC).

**White-throated Sparrow:** Earliest on 6 Sep at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RJT). The high of 250 was on 12 Oct at Peterson P *Story* (EEO).

**Vesper Sparrow:** High of 8 on 8 Oct at Luton WMA *Woodbury* (RaW). The last was one at TELC *Story* 2 Nov (SSP). Reported in 20

counties.

**LeConte's Sparrow:** Recorded in 18 counties. High count an astonishing 58 on 22 Oct at Luton WMA *Woodbury* (JC). Twenty-six were at Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt *Polk* 5 Oct (DTh, RLC). The last was a single at The Square *Woodbury* 6 Nov (GLV).



*LeConte's Sparrow*, Kiowa Marsh, Sac, 3 October 2021. Photograph by Dana Siefer, Storm Lake, IA.

**Nelson's Sparrow:** Many fewer than last season, likely due to persistent drought conditions across the state. High count 4 on 28 Sep at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RJT). Last on 17 Oct at Sweet Marsh WMA *Bremer* (KCR). Reported in 8 counties.

**Henslow's Sparrow:** Eleven total reports, 6 of which were the same individual. All singles except a high of 4 on 5 Oct at rural *Greene* (CR). Three last reported 6 November at The Square *Woodbury* (GLV).

**Savannah Sparrow:** High count of 70 on 22 Oct at Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt *Polk* (RLC). Last seen 22 Nov at TELC *Story* (SSP), a common place where they have been seen past the fall in recent years.

**Song Sparrow:** High of 70 on 21 Oct at AHHP *Story* (SSP).



**Lincoln's Sparrow:** Earliest was one 6 Sep at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (LAr). High was 68 on 25 Sep at Riverton WMA *Fremont* (KH).

**Swamp Sparrow:** Eighty seen on 22 Oct at Sedan Bottoms *Appanoose* (TNJ).

**Spotted Towhee:** A return to normal after an unusual eastern surge in 2020. All but one report from *Polk* county and westward. All singles reported (eBird, m.ob.). Earliest on 21 Sep at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RJT). Last was one 20 Oct at a private residence *Monona* (JC). Reported in 8 counties.



*Song Sparrow, Hawkeye WA, Johnson, 17 October 2021. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*

**Eastern Towhee:** Last seen 4 Nov in Burlington *Des Moines* (JWR).

**Yellow-breasted Chat:** All: one at Hawkeye WMA *Johnson* 11 Aug (MR), one at Rock Creek CP *Clinton* 15 Aug (MR).

**Yellow-headed Blackbird:** Reported in 10 counties, all in the northwest quadrant of the state. The last was a single at Kiowa M *Sac* 3 Oct (DSi).

**Bobolink:** Reported in 17 counties. The high was 85 at HHW *Pot-*

*tawattamie* 4 Sep (CSt), where 33 were seen the previous day (CSt). The last was a single at Burrows Pond WMA *Sac* 23 Oct (DSi).

**Eastern Meadowlark:** Reported widely across the state from 39 counties. The last was one at West Liberty *Muscatine* 27 Oct (WGH).

**Western Meadowlark:** Reported widely across the state from 15 counties.

**Orchard Oriole:** Reported in 23 counties. The last was a single south of Clutier *Tama* 31 Aug (KCR).

**Baltimore Oriole:** The highest count was 20 at Rock Creek CP *Clinton* 24 Aug (MR). The last was a single at Scott CP *Scott* 28 Sep (LJo).

**Rusty Blackbird:** Reported in 26 counties. The first was one at Goose Lake WMA *Clinton* 2 Oct (EEO). The high was 40 at Lewis Bottoms *Linn* 7 Nov (WV).

**Brewer's Blackbird:** Reported in 13 counties. The first was one at Wiese Slough WMA *Muscatine* 7 Oct (WGH). The high was 28 at TELC *Story* 20 Nov (SSP).



*Brewer's Blackbirds, Peterson Park, Story, 15 November 2021. Photograph by Connor Langan, Waterloo, IA.*

**Great-tailed Grackle:** All: 7 at Kiowa M *Sac* 7 Aug (DSi), 1 at

Errington Marsh WMA *Polk* 10 Oct (RLC), up to 27 at Bay's Branch WMA *Guthrie* 22 Oct to 18 Nov (CW, MTo, MWe).



*Great-tailed Grackles, Bays Branch Wildlife Area, Guthrie, 22 October 2021. Photograph by Clayton Will, Madrid, IA.*

**Ovenbird:** High was 13 on 28 Aug at ERVP *Story* (PMi). Last was one 14 Oct in rural *Bremer* (KCR).



*Ovenbird, Sparks Cemetery Area, Boone, 9 September 2021. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.*

**Worm-eating Warbler:** No observations.

**Louisiana Waterthrush:** Last were two reports on 15 Aug at both Geode SP *Henry* (ZiR) and a private residence in Des Moines *Polk* (PJW).

**Northern Waterthrush:** High was 3 on both 28 Aug at ERVP *Story*

(PMi) and 4 Sep at Wilkinson-Pioneer P *Cerro Gordo* (JG). Last was one 6 Oct at Rock Creek CP *Clinton* (MR).

**Golden-winged Warbler:** High was 14 on 24 Aug at McIntosh Woods SP *Cerro Gordo* (RGo). Last was one 22 Sep at Lansing WMA *Al-lamakee* (NoN).

**Blue-winged Warbler:** Recorded in only 13 counties. High was 3 on 15 Aug at Rock Creek CP *Clinton* (MR). Last was one 14 Sep at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (AdB).

**Black-and-white Warbler:** High count 14 recorded on 3 Sep at ERVP *Story* (KeB). Last was one 4 Oct in Marion *Linn* (JOD).

**Prothonotary Warbler:** Only 11 reports into the fall with a high count of 5 on 15 Aug at Rock Creek CP *Clinton* (MR). Latest was one 4 Sep at West Rochester Sand Pit *Cedar* (NaB).

**Tennessee Warbler:** High was 19 on 26 Sep at Hawkeye WMA *Johnson* (MHB). Last recorded 30 Oct at Geode SP *Henry* (TE).

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** High was 13 on 21 Sep at ERVP *Story* (SSP). Latest sighting 8 Nov at West Lake CP *Scott* (SMF).

**Nashville Warbler:** Numerous high counts over 50 individuals (eBird, m.ob.) with one report of 109 on 12 Sep at HHW *Pottawattamie* (CSt). Last was one 22 Oct at Sedan Bottoms WMA *Appanoose* (TNJ).

**Mourning Warbler:** High of 3 reported twice: 28 Aug at ERVP *Story* (PMi, WiC) and 4 Sep at McIntosh Woods SP *Cerro Gordo* (JG). Last was one 13 Oct at AHHP *Story* (WO).

**Kentucky Warbler:** Five re-

ports, all singles (eBird). Last was one 5 Sep at Hitchcock NC *Pottawattamie* (CSt).

**Common Yellowthroat:** High of 35 recorded on 25 Sep at Riverton WMA *Fremont* (KH). Last on 19 Oct in rural *Jefferson* (ScHa).

**Hooded Warbler:** Only report was a single on 15 Aug at Brinton Timber *Washington* (TB).

**American Redstart:** High was 20 on 1 Sep at West Lake CP *Scott* (SMF). Last was one 22 Oct at L *Sugema Van Buren* (TE).

**Cape May Warbler:** High count of 6 on 9 Sep at L Macbride *Johnson* (JBo). Last was one 15 Oct at Cedar L *Linn* (JE). Reported in 12 counties.

**Cerulean Warbler:** No observations.

**Northern Parula:** Mainly singles reported; high count of 5 on 15 Sep at Rock Creek CP *Clinton* (MR). Latest sighting was a new record late date on 20 Nov at Seminole Valley P *Linn* (KiP-ph), shattering the old record late of 13 Nov 1999.

**Magnolia Warbler:** Eighteen seen on 1 Sep at West Lake CP *Scott* (SMF). Last was one 16 Oct at West Lake CP *Scott* (SMF).

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** High was 6 on 3 Oct at Eagle Point P *Clinton* (MR). Latest report 14 Oct at Hawkeye WMA *Johnson* (ElW).

**Blackburnian Warbler:** High count of 5 on 25 Aug at a private residence *Bremer* (KCR). Last was 9 Oct at Gehrke WA *Hardin* (KeB).

**Yellow Warbler:** High count of 54 on 12 Sep at HHW *Pottawattamie* (CSt). Last report on 22 Sep at Cedar L *Linn* (KiP-ph).

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** High counts of 15 reported twice: once on

28 Aug at Ashworth and Greenwood P *Polk* (RJT) and on 2 Sep at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (BCC). Last was one 3 Oct at Saylorville Res *Polk* (DTh).

**Blackpoll Warbler:** All: one at McIntosh Woods SP *Cerro Gordo* 4 Sep (JG), one at ERVP *Story* 12 Sep (SSP), one at Cedar L *Linn* 13-21 Sep (BCC-ph, KiP-ph), one at Eagle Point P *Dubuque* 19 Sep (KJAB-ph), one at L Macbride SP *Johnson* 25 Sep (JF), one at Deere Dike *Dubuque* 26 Sep (DAS), one at Cedar L *Linn* 15 Oct was a new second latest date (JE).

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** Abundant this fall with reports from 14 counties. A pair was present from 3-5 Sep at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (JHu, m.ob.). Another pair was in rural *Jackson* 30 Sep to 1 Oct (BW). Last was one at Three Elms Area and Access *Buchanan* 8 Oct (WV).

**Palm Warbler:** High was 13 on 25 Sep at Deere Dike *Dubuque* (DAS). Last report 26 Oct at George Wyth SP *Black Hawk* (DGE).



*Magnolia Warbler, Sparks Cemetery Area, Boone, 5 Sep 2021. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.*

**Pine Warbler:** Reported from only 4 counties. Two reports of 2 on 29 Aug at Eagle Point P *Clinton*



(KJAB) and 18 Sep at the same location (EEO). Last on 5 Oct at McFarland P *Story* (EEO).

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** First report was a single at Iowa Lakeside Lab *Dickinson* 18 Aug (JT*i*). High was 137 at HHW *Pottawattamie* 4 Oct (CSt).

**Yellow-throated Warbler:** Only ~10 individuals reported this fall (eBird, m. obs.). High count was 2 on 29 Aug at Eagle Point P *Clinton* and on 6 Sep at Linwood Cemetery *Dubuque* (KJAB). Last report on 18 Sep at Linwood Cemetery *Dubuque* (TM).

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** High of 6 on 3 Sep at Water Works P *Polk* (RJT). Last seen 13 Oct at a private residence in Des Moines *Polk* (PJW).

**Canada Warbler:** High of 13 reported 29 Aug at Peggy's Tr *Story* (PMi, WiC). Last was one 25 Sep at Ledges SP *Boone* (DCH).

**Wilson's Warbler:** High count was 9 on 4 Sep at McIntosh Woods SP *Cerro Gordo* (JG). Last seen 30 Sep at University of Iowa RP *Johnson* (JDM).

**Summer Tanager:** Reported in 15 counties. The last was a female in Marion *Linn* 4 Oct (JOD-ph).

**Scarlet Tanager:** Reported in 30 counties. The last was a single at Mines of Spain SRA *Dubuque* 2 Oct (TM).

**WESTERN TANAGER:** No observations.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** The last was a single at Neal Smith Tr *Polk* 9 Oct (SCS).

**BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK:** A 1st winter male was at Stone SP *Woodbury* 24 Aug (\*BFH).

**Blue Grosbeak:** Reported in 18 counties. The last was a single at Saylorville Res *Polk* 30 Sep (JB, AB, RJT), where breeding likely took place.

**Indigo Bunting:** The last report was 2 at TELC *Story* 14 Oct (PMi).

**Dickcissel:** Reported in 48 counties. The last was a single at Chich-aqua Bottoms Greenbelt *Polk* 10 Oct (RJT).

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# Hitchcock Nature Center

## Hawk Watch Report, Fall 2021

*Caleb Strand*

### Season Overview

The fall of 2021 was an interesting season for the Hitchcock Nature Center. I was only rained out on a handful of days, and throughout the first three-quarters of the season, the breaks between variable winds (east, south, west, etc) were well-spaced between weather systems and winds pushing down from the north. On some of the days with north winds, cloud conditions were low in altitude, causing me to think that a number of birds may have been missed throughout the fall, but compared to many years in the past, the conditions were good.

The biggest exception to the 2021 season had to have been the warm weather lingering on through the end of the season. It only snowed lightly on one day in December and there were a handful of days in the last month in the mid-to-high 70s. The warm weather undoubtedly reduced the numbers of some species that pass through in the late season, such as Bald Eagles, Red-tailed Hawks, and Rough-legged Hawks, yet it was still the best fall in a number of years for both Red-tails and Rough-leggeds. Despite the high tallies overall this season, there were still a lot of birds that could have passed through that didn't. Broad-winged Hawks are often blown slightly west of their normal route when the wind conditions are right. However, that did not happen this season, so their numbers were low for the count. Similarly, Swainson's Hawks will occasionally be blown over Hitchcock (east of their normal route) in the low thousands, but the season's total for this species was only 101 individuals. Less-so wind related, Osprey had its record low year this fall. This low still remains a mystery to me, but, due to the extended warm season it is quite possible that there were a considerable number hanging out to the north waiting for the lakes to freeze over. Sharp-shinned Hawks and Merlins had an unusually early push around the first and second weeks of the count, and Duluth, Minnesota had a similar experience this fall. A record count of 12 Red-shouldered Hawks were detected this fall, breaking the previous high count by one. Over the course of the season we counted 7,725 raptors migrating by the tower and logged 591.5 hours, for an average of 13 raptors per hour.

### Species Analysis

#### Turkey Vulture - 3,642

Numbers slightly above average. With the warm fall lingering rather late the season started off slow in terms of movement of this species. However, starting on October 13th there was a large push with the strong south winds.



### Osprey - 57

\*Record low count. This fall many of the volunteers were rather surprised by how thin the Osprey movement was. Given how warm the fall season was, it's likely that there were an exceptional number of individuals lingering around reservoirs to the north, but that does not fully explain the low numbers in my opinion.

### Bald Eagle - 493

Numbers down from average. The low count for the fall is undoubtedly due to the retained warm weather lasting through the end of the count and a lack of any intense late-season cold front.

### Northern Harrier - 200

Down from average but the highest count in over 7 years. This species was pushing through during the entire season with a peak in late Oct/early Nov.

### Sharp-shinned Hawk - 700

Down from overall average but highest count in 6 years. This fall there was an exceptionally early push of Sharp-shinned Hawks with 75 individuals on Sep 12th and numbers trickling down from there till the normal peak season around October.

### Cooper's Hawk - 189

Third lowest count in count history. Although this was a poor fall for this species, this number reflects the rather consistent decline in accipiter numbers over the last few years.

### Northern Goshawk - 3

Rather low count but the season was slow overall at other locations too, like Duluth. All three birds came through around mid-October and, surprisingly, they were all adult birds (juveniles are more expected this time of year; adults are usually later).

### Red-shouldered Hawk - 12

\*Record high count. This fall's count breaks the previous record of 11 individuals in 2012. The majority of these birds were juveniles but towards the latter portion of their migration we counted adults.

### Broad-winged Hawk - 363

Low Count. Given the wind conditions during the early-season, this species mostly passed through to the east in Central and Eastern Iowa.

### Red-tailed Hawk - 1,729

Below average numbers but highest count in 5 years. Seeing decent numbers of Red-tailed Hawks moving through this fall was an encouraging sight, as this species' numbers have dropped considerably in the last few years. This year's influx is likely due to mostly ideal weather conditions during the peak season

for this species.

Rough-legged Hawk - 42

\*Second highest count for Hitchcock. I am quite confused as to why there have been such small numbers of Rough-legged Hawks spotted here in past fall seasons but this number was about what I expected for the season, despite the warm weather lingering through the end of the season.

Swainson's Hawk - 101

Low count. Given the wind conditions in early October, this species passed through to the west through Central Nebraska, where birders reported flocks into the high hundreds.

Ferruginous Hawk - 1

A rare/low density migrant here with most years having only one. A single juvenile individual flew by the tower on Sep 24th, a rather early date for this species at Hitchcock.

Golden Eagle - 12

Number below the overall average but more in line with recent years. The majority of these birds pushed through mid-Oct and early Nov.

American Kestrel - 64

Exceptionally below average. The drop in numbers at this site is likely due to an overall decrease in the population of American Kestrels, but it is also quite possible that this number is also affected by weather conditions pushing birds through the Missouri River Valley during their peak season.

Merlin - 64

\*Highest count of this species in 12 years. There was an odd movement of 11 Merlins on September 7th before a large weather system pushed south. Numbers slowly trickled down from that day on and balanced out.

Peregrine Falcon - 37

Numbers below average. This total can potentially be attributed to the lack of coverage in the late afternoon during the early season, a time of day when these birds will often pass through.

Prairie Falcon - 1

I was rather surprised to only spot one Prairie Falcon throughout the entire season, however, this is more than often the total for most seasons. A single bird was observed moving south on October 13th, a day with strong south winds and an exceptional flight of raptors.

Mississippi Kite - 4

The number of Mississippi Kites that we find in a given season seems to have fluctuated throughout the history of Hitchcock. It seems likely that this is due to the number of successful breeding attempts to the north, which isn't more

than a few pairs in a good year.

Unidentified accipiter - 7

Of the 7 accipiters that weren't able to be identified to species, two of these birds were likely Northern Goshawks but only viewed briefly at a distance.

Unidentified buteo - 1

Unidentified raptor - 3

**Total 7,725**

6204 S 195th Dr Buckeye, AZ (strandcaleb@yahoo.com)



*American Kestrel young at nest box, Sparks Cemetery area, Boone, 16 June 2021. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.*



# Iowa Ornithologists' Union Budget Meeting Minutes

*Katie Byerly*

The 2022 Iowa Ornithologists' Union (IOU) Board of Directors Budget meeting was held 13 December 2021 via Zoom Video conference. President Dennis Thompson called the meeting to order at 1pm. Members in attendance included President Dennis Thompson, Vice-President Dick Sayles, Treasurer Tom Dougherty, Secretary Katie Byerly and board members Sharon Bauer, Clayton Will and Curt Nelson.

Treasurer Tom Dougherty presented the 2022 proposed budget. Highlights from the presentation included higher than expected donations. Total donations are \$1603.11. This is the result of a very generous donation of \$900 from one person (who is not an IOU member). Amazon purchases by members resulted in a \$141.11 donation from Amazon. Tom encouraged the board to remind members using Amazon to remember the IOU when making purchases.

PayPal expenses were lower due to not holding a Spring meeting and limited attendance at the Fall meeting. It was noted that a large percentage of IOU members do use PayPal to pay for membership and meetings. The board agreed that this is a positive avenue for members to make payments to IOU. The Fall IOU meeting expenses were all covered by the intake of the meeting. The *Iowa Bird Life* expenses were also on budget. Our internet related expenses were lower than projected.

We originally projected all of the *Breeding Bird Atlas* expenses would be paid in 2020; however, just over \$4,500 in BBA expenses were invoiced in January 2021. The budget for BBA was around \$16,500 and the total spent across the entire project was just under \$15,000. Excluding the BBA expenses paid in 2021, our net loss for the year was about \$700 below the projected \$2,000 amount.

Katie Byerly moved to accept the 2022 Budget. Curt Nelson seconded the motion. The motion to accept the 2022 IOU Budget was passed unanimously. Tom Dougherty moved that the meeting be adjourned with Dick Sayles seconding. The online meeting ended.

Respectfully submitted by,

Katie Byerly  
IOU Secretary

# IOU Financial Reports

*Tom Dougherty*

## IOU

### Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2021

	TOTAL
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
1150 Checking - 1st Citizens	20,828.33
1450 Checking - Comm 1st CU	98,356.75
1550 Savings - Comm 1st CU	5.00
PayPal	1,046.71
Total Bank Accounts	\$120,236.79
Total Current Assets	\$120,236.79
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$120,236.79</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	
Liabilities	
Total Liabilities	
Equity	
3220 Projects	150.00
3300 Memorial Fund	57,065.75
General Operating Fund	68,168.16
Opening Bal Equity	79.93
Net Income	-5,227.05
Total Equity	\$120,236.79
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	<b>\$120,236.79</b>

# IOU

## Profit and Loss

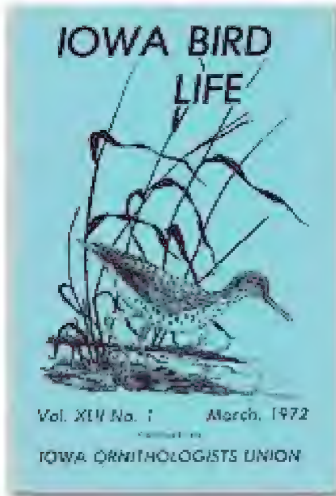
January - December 2021

	TOTAL
Income	
5300 Merchandise Sales	45.00
5900 Interest Income	398.57
Donations	
5100 Donations - Unspecified	1,462.00
5101 Donations - Amazon.com	141.11
<b>Total Donations</b>	<b>1,603.11</b>
Dues	
4012 Fledgling Dues	40.00
4020 Goldfinch Dues	1,450.00
4035 Bluebird Dues	4,585.00
4050 Baltimore Oriole Dues	3,400.00
4075 Great Egret Dues	900.00
4100 Osprey Dues	3,600.00
4250 Bald Eagle Dues	250.00
4500 Peregrine Falcon Dues	500.00
4800 Library Subscriptions	375.00
4999 Life Members	0.00
<b>Total Dues</b>	<b>15,100.00</b>
Meeting Income	
5201 Meeting Registration	1,120.00
5202 Meeting Meals	1,196.00
<b>Total Meeting Income</b>	<b>2,316.00</b>
Sales	
2020 Breeding Bird Atlas	870.96
<b>Total Sales</b>	<b>870.96</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$20,333.64</b>
<b>GROSS PROFIT</b>	<b>\$20,333.64</b>
Expenses	
6200 Meeting Expenses	
6201 Fall Meeting Expenses	1,758.56
6202 Spring Meeting Expenses	510.00
<b>Total 6200 Meeting Expenses</b>	<b>2,268.56</b>
6600 Insurance-Liability	998.00
6900 Bank & Pay Pal Exp.	373.79
Committees	
6700 Committees - Membership	120.00
6708 Committees - Conserv/Proj	5,000.00
<b>Total Committees</b>	<b>5,120.00</b>
	TOTAL
Officers	
6847 Officers - Treasurer	93.98
<b>Total Officers</b>	<b>93.98</b>
Publications	
6110 Publications - IA Bird Life	11,471.43
6120 Publications - Internet Svc	351.15
6150 Publications - Software, Photo, Video Sites	348.93
6170 Publications - 2020 Breeding Bird Atlas	4,534.85
<b>Total Publications</b>	<b>16,706.36</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$25,560.69</b>
<b>NET OPERATING INCOME</b>	<b>\$ -5,227.05</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$ -5,227.05</b>



# Fifty Years Ago in *Iowa Bird Life*

*James J. Dinsmore*



The lead article in the March 1972 issue of *Iowa Bird Life* is Peter Petersen's report on the 1971 Christmas Bird Count. Iowa's 27 counts reported a record-tying total of 115 species although a few of those were subspecies, and a record number of individuals. High individual counts were 76 species at Davenport and 68 at Oakville. It was a good year for waterfowl with 283,000 Snow Geese and 252,000 Mallards, mostly on the Shenandoah count, but only 900 Canada Geese. By comparison, in 2020, Iowa counted 187,000 Canada Geese! It was also a fair year for Evening Grosbeaks with 54 reported on six counts. The best bird was a Yellow-breasted Chat at Davenport, Iowa's first-ever winter record. Other good finds were Iowa CBCs' second Orange-crowned

Warbler, third Yellow-rumped Warbler, third and fourth Hermit Thrushes, fourth Turkey Vulture, and fifth Glaucous Gull.

Another article by Peter Petersen described birding areas in Muscatine and Louisa counties. Other than Cone Marsh, Weise Slough, and Wildcat Den State Park, most of the areas described are located along the Mississippi River.

An article by Dean Roosa summarized bird banding in Iowa in 1971. Seventeen banders banded almost 24,000 birds of 178 species. The Iowa Conservation Commission banded the most, 9,100 birds. The five species with more than 1,000 individuals banded were, in order, Mourning Dove, Mallard, Wood Duck, Blue-winged Teal, and Dark-eyed Junco. Some of the more unusual birds banded, all singles, were Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Chuck-will's-widow, White-rumped Sandpiper, Bewick's Wren, and Black-throated Blue Warbler.

Woodward Brown's winter field report was fairly short with little of note. It was a good season for winter finches including Evening Grosbeaks, two reports of Pine Grosbeaks, and also an Orange-crowned Warbler.

Other articles included one by Judy Totemeier on weather and warbler migration, several book reviews, and a note on the Yellow-breasted Chat. With the start of the new year, a new drawing graced the cover of the journal, this time a Spotted Sandpiper drawn by artist James Landenberger of Cedar Rapids.

646 Mallory Hill Drive, The Villages, FL 32162 (oldcoot@iastate.edu)



*American Kestrel bringing vole to young, Sparks Cemetery area, Boone, 15 June 2021.  
Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.*

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES** (renewable yearly):

Fledgling (students) \$20 (electronic only), Institutional (domestic) \$30, Institutional (foreign) \$45, Goldfinch \$25 (electronic only), Bluebird \$35, Oriole \$50, Egret \$75, Osprey \$100, Bald Eagle \$250, and Peregrine Falcon \$500+. Membership dues entitle members to receive *Iowa Bird Life* quarterly and to vote and hold office in the Union. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Join, give a gift, or manage your membership on-line at <[www.iowabirds.org](http://www.iowabirds.org)>. Paper forms for new members and renewals may be mailed to the treasurer. Back issues of *Iowa Bird Life* are available from Membership Coordinator Cecille Thompson, 7503 Wildflower Ct, Johnston, IA 50131 ([cecillethompson@gmail.com](mailto:cecillethompson@gmail.com)).

**INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS:**

Original manuscripts, notes, letters (indicate if for publication), editorials, and other material relating to birds in Iowa should be sent by e-mail attachment in Microsoft Word to editor at [IBL@iowabirds.org](mailto:IBL@iowabirds.org). Research manuscripts should include abstract, introduction, study area, methods, results, discussion, and literature cited sections and will be sent for peer review. Accepted manuscripts will be published promptly depending on space available.

**PHOTOS AND GRAPHICS:**

Submit only original, unsized, and unenhanced photos in your camera's JPEG (\*.jpg) format. Photos must be 300 dpi at the size they will be printed (6-1/2" wide by 6-1/2" high for the cover and various smaller sizes inside), so setting your camera to its highest possible resolution is recommended. The photo editor will do any resizing and enhancing required because any previous adjustments to the photos may make them unusable. Members may upload their photos using the upload tool, Upload IBL Photos, after logging in. If you have trouble with internet connectivity preventing using the tool, email to the photo editor at [lgdau9@gmail.com](mailto:lgdau9@gmail.com). Submit graphs or maps as email attachments to your manuscript to the editor.

Deadlines for submission are 1 January for the fall season, 1 April for the winter season, 1 July for the spring season, 1 October for the summer season.

**I.O.U. WEB SITE:** <[www.iowabirds.org](http://www.iowabirds.org)>, Ann Johnson, Webmaster

**IOWA RBA:** John Bissell ([john.annabissell@gmail.com](mailto:john.annabissell@gmail.com))

**CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT:** Deadline for receipt of reports is 15 January. For forms and instructions, contact Christopher J. Caster, 1813 Liberty Lane, Coralville, IA 52241 ([cjcaster@q.com](mailto:cjcaster@q.com)).

**BIRD SIGHTINGS:** Subscribe at <[www.iowabirds.org](http://www.iowabirds.org)>

**ADDRESS CHANGES:** Update your on-line profile at <[www.iowabirds.org](http://www.iowabirds.org)> or send address and email changes to Membership Coordinator Cecille Thompson, 7503 Wildflower Ct., Johnston, IA 50131 ([cecillethompson@gmail.com](mailto:cecillethompson@gmail.com)).

**FRONT COVER PHOTO:** Sanderling, Jewell Sewer Lagoons, *Hamilton*, 25 August 2021. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.

**BACK COVER PHOTO:** Semipalmated Plover, Cedar River Crossing, *Johnson*, 10 October 2021. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA

**LAYOUT:** Doreen Van Ryswyk, Mitchellville, IA.

**PRINTER:** Carter Printing Company, Des Moines, IA.





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# **IOWA BIRD LIFE**

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## **IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION**



Spring 2022 · Volume 92 · Number 2



## IOWA BIRD LIFE

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*The Iowa Ornithologists' Union, founded in 1923, encourages interest in the identification, study, and protection of birds in Iowa and seeks to unite those who have these interests in common. Iowa Bird Life is a quarterly publication of the Union.*

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# Iowa DNR Uses Automated Radio Telemetry to Track Bird Migration

*Anna Buckardt Thomas*

As a wildlife biologist, I don't often use vocabulary like coaxial cable, megahertz, and lightning arrestor, but Motus changed that. In the last two years I've become well-versed in the lingo and installation of radio communication systems, all in the name of bird conservation. As part of a collaborative effort across the Midwest, I worked with Iowa DNR State Park and Wildlife Unit staff to install seven automated radio telemetry receiver stations as part of the Motus Wildlife Tracking System (<https://motus.org>). The project was made possible by a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Competitive State Wildlife Grant that provided funds for 50 new telemetry receiver stations in the Midwest and 11 more in Mexico, Costa Rica, and Colombia.

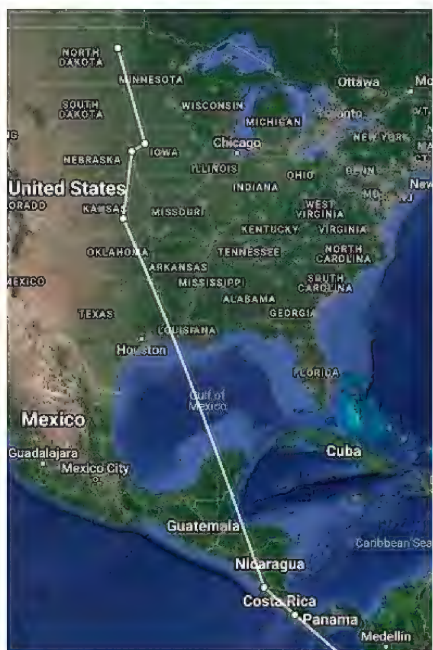


Figure 1: A screenshot of the spring migration of a Lesser Yellowlegs in April and May 2022. This bird was tagged in Colombia on 19 April 2022. On 4 May 2022 it crossed Costa Rica in 4 hours and 40 minutes. On 7 May 2022, it was detected in Kansas, then twice in western Iowa, at times flying over 80 mph. The bird was detected at a station in eastern North Dakota on 16 May 2022. Visit <https://motus.org/data/track?tagDeploymentId=38367> to view an interactive map of this bird's journey.

The Motus system relies on a large collaboration of independent researchers to track wildlife movements using radio telemetry. Across the Western Hemisphere, receiver stations and tagging efforts on the Motus system operate on two specific radio frequencies (166.38 MHz or 434 MHz). The radio transmitters placed on wildlife are micro-coded so thousands of unique individuals can be identified while only having to listen for one or two frequencies. This makes it possible to set up a system of automated radio receiver stations that are always ready to detect tagged wildlife. When a bird, bat, insect, or other critter tagged on a Motus frequency comes close enough to a receiver station (within nine miles for our stations), it is recorded and identified, and the data are automatically uploaded to the Motus website. All the data from animals tagged and detected on the system go into a centralized database, allowing researchers to collaboratively track large-scale movements of individual wildlife. So, for example, a Lesser Yellowlegs tagged by researchers in Colombia in April could later be detected by receiver stations in Costa Rica, Kansas, western Iowa, and eastern North

Dakota in May, which is exactly what happened in spring of 2022 (Figure 1). Multiple detections of individuals across time can be combined, point by point, to learn about the paths, timing, and speed of small animal movements, and the system can also be used to learn about localized habitat and space use.

Receiver stations in Iowa are dual-listening and can detect tags on either of the Motus frequencies (Figure 2). The first Iowa station was installed in August 2021, and the most recent stations were installed in April 2022. Thus, we have been able to capture a partial fall migration, a full spring migration, and now the start of a second fall migration period so far. Over that time, Iowa receiver stations have detected 33 individual birds from 13 species (American Kestrel [n=6], American Redstart [n=1], Black Tern [n=2], Common Nighthawk [n=1], Golden-winged Warbler [n=1], Least Sandpiper [n=1], Lesser Yellowlegs [n=6], Rusty Blackbird [n=1], Semipalmated Plover [n=3], Short-billed Dowitcher [n=1], Sora [n=3], Stilt Sandpiper [n=1], Virginia Rail [n=6]. The receiver stations we installed will be permanent fixtures over the next 10 years, always ready to detect tagged wildlife in Iowa.



Figure 2: A Motus wildlife telemetry receiver station operated by Iowa DNR at Pikes Peak State Park.

To date, Iowa DNR has installed seven Motus receiver stations (Figure 3), with one more slated for installation in fall of 2022, and another station, funded by IOU, going up next spring. This lays the groundwork for future

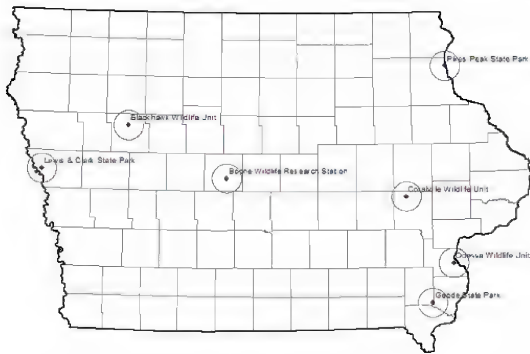


Figure 3: Motus wildlife telemetry receiver stations in Iowa as of August 2022.

DNR and partner research on the movements and migrations of Iowa’s birds, bats, and possibly even insects. We are also working with partner groups to expand the network of receivers and anticipate installations of additional stations across Iowa in the years to come. We are thrilled to be contributing to this hemisphere-wide effort to better understand migration and fill important gaps in our understanding of the full-an-

annual-cycles of migratory wildlife and will use this collective knowledge to improve our conservation efforts here in Iowa.

25117 Myerwood Drive, Nevada, IA 50201 ([anna.buckardt@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:anna.buckardt@dnr.iowa.gov))

# Report of the Projects Committee — 2021-2022

*John Cecil*

## Awards for 2022

The IOU Projects Committee supplied funds for several research projects by Western Illinois University at the Nahant Marsh site in Davenport and in the Princeton Wildlife Management Area in Scott County. The university has been conducting various ongoing studies on Prothonotary Warbler nest boxes. They have hundreds of boxes set up in these areas and are doing several studies on cowbird parasitism. These grants have been awarded to a few different researchers. Most of the money has been used for cameras, time, and gas spent to do the necessary field work.

The committee dedicated funds to Mitchell County Conservation to help upgrade the feeder system at their nature center viewing area.

We also helped fund materials for installation of Barn Owl boxes for Madison County Conservation. Anna Buckardt Thomas was able to assist them with Barn Owl boxes that the Iowa DNR had available at no cost and we supplied money for the posts, ready mix concrete, and other securement materials.

Additionally, we allocated money to Anna Buckardt Thomas for installation of a Motus bird tracking station to add to the network of tracking infrastructure in the state.

We also have a large endowment and we have been looking for partnerships for permanent structures.

Table 1. 2022 Awards

Recipient	Amount	Description
Western Illinois University - Matt Scerbicke	\$984	An investigation of nest usurpation by House Wrens, the most significant source of nest failure in Prothonotary Warblers in southeast Iowa
Western Illinois Universtiy - Gbenga S. Dairo	\$761	A study to determine if food supplemented to Prothonotary Warblers is more effective at preventing cowbird parasitism and nest takeover by House Wrens
Mitchell County - Chelsea Ewen Rowcliffe	\$579	Funding for a feeder station
Western Illinois University - Nicholas R. Vozza	\$472	Continuation of Prothonotary Warbler parasitism study
Madison County Conservation Board	\$200	Provided partial funding for Barn Owl boxes



**Awards for 2021**

A new non-profit called “For the Good Ole Birds” used some funds to purchase additional feeders, poles, bird baths, and suet feeders for five different assisted living facilities in the Stuart/Panora area.

We funded two more projects for Western Illinois University and their ongoing Prothonotary Warbler studies.

Paul Skrade received funding for his ongoing Cerulean Warbler distribution projects at Yellow River State Forest. The current allocation was for a study observing the effect nearby ATV trails would have on the success of Cerulean Warbler breeding populations.

Brandon Caswell and Heather Sanders used some funding to do a small breeding bird survey of Palisades-Kepler State Park. This park was significantly altered by the derecho storm of 2020 where up to 70% of trees were damaged or destroyed.

Table 2. 2021 Awards

Recipient	Amount	Description
For the good ole birds	\$1,935	Feeders for assisted living communities
Branson Caswell - Heather Sander	\$1,125	Derecho effects on breeding birds in Palisades-Kepler State Park
Paul Skrade	\$1,000	Ongoing Cerulean Warbler research
Nicholas Vozza	\$940	Cameras for monitoring Prothonotary Warbler nest boxes

8023 Maple Dr., Urbandale, IA 50322 (jcecil01@gmail.com)

## Field Reports—Winter 2021–2022

*Francis Moore*



*Francis Moore*

### WEATHER

December was an anomalously warm month with positive departures ranging from 5 to 8°F statewide; southern Iowa reported the warmest conditions. Nearly 100 National Weather Service (NWS) co-op stations tied or broke their December record highs on December 15th in advance of a potent low-pressure system advancing towards Iowa from Colorado. December's statewide average maximum temperature was 41.9°F, 8.7°F above normal while the average minimum temperature was 21.9°F, 5.2°F above normal. Several stations reported the month's high temperature of 75°F on the 15th, on average 39°F above normal. Postville *Allamakee* reported the month's low temperature of -8°F on the 29th, 18°F below normal. With the exception of stations in extreme northwestern Iowa, below-average precipitation was reported over a majority of Iowa. The first winter storm of the season moved through the northwestern two-thirds of Iowa on the 10th and 11th. Heavier snow, on the order of four to eight inches, fell across northwestern Iowa with amounts tapering off farther southeast.

Larchwood *Lyon* measured 8.3 inches with central and eastern stations reporting a dusting. A mix of rain, freezing rain and snow fell along the system's southerly track with a gauge near Comanche *Clinton* reporting 2.02 inches of rain. A spring-like low pressure system brought a line of thunderstorms through Iowa on the 15th. The line was relatively narrow but packed a punch as it raced northeast at over 70 mph. Heavier rain fell over Iowa's northwestern corner as well as in central Iowa. Larchwood *Lyon* observed 0.97 inch of rainfall while Adel *Dallas* measured 0.78 inch. Decembers second and final winter system moved through the state's northwestern one-third on the 28th, leaving behind snow totals in the four to five-inch range; Decorah *Winneshiek* observed 5.2 inches. Rain and freezing rain fell over southern Iowa where temperatures remained above freezing. Monthly precipitation totals ranged from 0.10 inch in Pacific Junction *Mills* to 2.78 inches in Camanche *Clinton*. The statewide average snowfall was 2.0 inches, which is 5.9 inches below normal. Drought and abnormally dry conditions remained largely unchanged through the month. Unseasonably warm and record setting air and dewpoint temperatures produced unstable conditions in advance of a potent Colorado low pressure system on December 15th. Temperatures across the state were 30 to 40 degrees above average, creating an explosive ring-like thunderstorm

environment. Coupled with very strong gradient winds that produced southwesterly flow in the 40 to 50 mph range, a squall line developed in eastern Nebraska and propagated into Iowa during the late afternoon and evening hours. The preliminary tornado count as of January 7th, 2022 for this event stands at 61, breaking Iowa's all-time highest tornado outbreak that occurred on August 31st, 2014 of 35 tornados. The multi-state tornado outbreak is the highest December outbreak in recorded history as well. This event on December 15 was classified as a serial derecho; the first of which to ever occur in December. Temperatures averaged 31.9°F or 6.9°F above normal, ranking as the 13th warmest December on record in 150 years of statewide records. Precipitation averaged 0.82 inch or 0.55 inch less than normal, ranking it as the 47th driest. Negative temperatures were observed across a majority of Iowa through January with averages of up to 8°F below normal in northeastern Iowa. A lack of snowpack in northwestern Iowa allowed for relatively warmer temperatures, with near-normal readings observed along the Iowa-Nebraska border. January's statewide average maximum temperature was 26.2°F, 1.9°F below normal, while the average minimum temperature was 3.3°F, 7.6°F below normal. Sioux City Airport *Woodbury* reported the month's high temperature of 62°F on the 18th, 33°F above normal.

Elkader *Clayton* reported the month's low temperature of -30°F on the 26th, 35°F below normal. Much of Iowa's eastern quarter experienced precipitation deficits between 0.50 inch to 1.00 inch through January. Overall, a majority of Iowa's reporting stations were near to slightly below normal for the month. The new year started with the first winter system to impact Iowa on the 1st. Most of Iowa's southern half reported measurable snowfall through the afternoon and evening hours. Accumulations were highest in southeastern Iowa with a general range of six to eight inches; Bloomfield *Davis* measured 7.5 inches with totals tapering off to two to four inches along much of the I-80 corridor. The most substantial snowstorm of the month occurred over the 14th and the 15th with totals over six inches for much of the central two-thirds of Iowa. Multiple stations in *Kossuth*, *Polk*, and *Story* measured 10 inches or more with Des Moines International Airport observing 14.3 inches of snow. The statewide average snowfall was 5.7 inches, a majority of the snowfall for the entire month. The final event of the month occurred over northeastern Iowa over the afternoon hours of the 22nd into the 23rd. Event totals were generally in the two to four-inch range with Elkader *Clayton* and Fayette *Fayette* measuring the highest totals at 4.5 inches. Accumulations quickly tapered off towards the southwest with stations from Spencer *Clay* through Waterloo *Black Hawk* and Cedar Rapids *Linn* measuring an inch or less. Monthly precipitation totals ranged from 0.05 inch in Sioux City *Woodbury* to 1.76 inches in Sigourney *Keokuk*. Above average snowfall also blanketed much of Iowa with the preliminary average snowfall of 8.5 inches, 0.8 inch above average. January 2022 ties 1949 as the 13th snowiest on record. Des Moines International Airport *Polk* reported the highest monthly snow total of 18.7 inches. Abnormally dry and drought conditions remained generally status quo through



January with moderate drought coverage at the start of the month. Abnormally dry conditions also slightly expanded across the state towards the end of the month. Temperatures averaged 14.7°F or 4.8°F below normal, ranking as the 38th coldest January in 150 years of statewide records. Precipitation averaged 0.68 inch or 0.29 inch below normal, tying 1983 and 1985 as the 44th driest.

Colder than average temperatures blanketed Iowa in February with the coldest conditions found across north-central Iowa; average temperature departures were three to four °F below normal. Near-average conditions were observed in western Iowa, where a lack of snowpack allowed for warmer conditions. February's statewide average maximum temperature was 33.2°F, 0.01°F above normal while the average minimum temperature was 9.3°F, 5.8°F below normal. Sioux City *Woodbury* reported the month's high temperature of 69°F on the 28th, 30 degrees above average. Elkader *Clayton* and Rockwell City *Calhoun* reported the month's low temperature of -17°F on the 4th, on average 24°F below normal. Most of the state's NWS co-op stations reported below-average precipitation in February, which is climatologically the third driest month for Iowa. Precipitation departures were generally around 0.50 inch; The driest conditions were found across portions of eastern Iowa where deficits approached an inch. A split flow configuration was present in the storm track for much of February, with an active pattern north and south of Iowa. Given this setup, multiple winter systems clipped the boundaries of Iowa, leaving behind light precipitation totals across minor portions of the state. It wasn't until the last 10 days that two systems brought widespread snowfall, the first of which occurred on the 21st and 22nd. Snow fell across much of northern Iowa, though totals were generally under two inches. Stations across southern Iowa reported a wintry mix along with rainfall ranging from 0.54 inch in Cantril *Van Buren* to several tenths of an inch at more than 20 stations. The last and most widespread event occurred on the 24th as a relatively fast-moving system brought dry and very fluffy snow across central and eastern Iowa. Three to five-inch totals were measured in a band from Des Moines *Polk* into *Dubuque* and *Jackson* in eastern Iowa; Des Moines International Airport reported 5.3 inches with a 6.0 total at Cedar Rapids *Linn*. Much of the rest of the Iowa received totals in the one-to-two-inch range with a statewide average total at 1.9 inches, a majority of the month's total accumulation. Monthly precipitation totals ranged from 0.07 inch at Audubon Municipal Airport *Audubon* to 2.60 inch at Keokuk Lock and Dam 19 *Lee*. Statewide snowfall was well below normal with an average of 2.7 inches, 4.1 inches below normal, ranking the month as the 17th least snowy February in 135 years of snowfall records with 1998 measuring less snow. Keokuk Lock and Dam 19 *Lee* measured the highest accumulation of 9.6 inches. As of the beginning of February, drought conditions remained generally unchanged with abnormally dry to moderate drought conditions covering 55% of Iowa. With a dry pattern setting up through the first half of the month moderate drought conditions expanded in eastern Iowa by 9%. Precipitation deficits in western Iowa through the end of the month along with shorter-term dryness necessitated a further

expansion on abnormally dry to moderate drought conditions in western Iowa as the month ended. Temperatures averaged 21.3°F or 2.8°F below normal while precipitation totaled 0.27 inch, 0.90 inch below normal. February 2022 ties 1879 as the 65th coldest and ties 1987/1996 as the 6th driest in 150 years of statewide observational records.

Temperatures for the three winter months of December, January and February averaged 22.7°F or 0.2°F below normal while precipitation totaled 1.94 inches, 1.57 inches below normal. Winter 2021-2022 ties 1974 as the 69th warmest/79th coldest winter with a warmer/colder one occurring in 2019-2020. In terms of precipitation, December, January, and February rank as the 16th driest; 2002 was drier. The statewide average snowfall was 12.5 inches, 9.6 inches below normal, making it the 23rd least snowy winter in 135 years of records with 2002–2003 experiencing less snow.

## HABITAT, GENERAL TRENDS

Goose numbers were a little above average for some species and a little below average for some others with puddle duck numbers a little above average. Diving ducks were a little above average also. Highest numbers of waterfowl reports were again from December and late February with fewer found in January, as is usually the case during winter. Overall duck numbers were above average during the period, with most of the reports and higher numbers showing up in early December and after 15 February. This year only two scoter species were found along with the usual Long-tailed Ducks.

Most gallinaceous bird numbers were quite a bit lower compared to last year with almost all showing below average and numbers decreasing from last year. There were only eight reports for Northern Bobwhite and eighteen for Gray Partridge. All of these species were down considerably from last year. American White Pelicans were found in good numbers at Red Rock and Saylorville Reservoirs with lower numbers found at the locks and dams along the Mississippi River. Turkey Vultures were above normal this year with migration starting early with many more coming north in February than usual. The number of reports for Bald Eagles higher than last year also. They were found in good numbers along the Mississippi River and at the Army Corps of Engineer impoundments as usual. Snowy Owl reports were close to normal this year also. Reports of accipiters were good this season with above average numbers of Sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawk this winter and three Northern Goshawks made an appearance after none being found last year. There were about the same number of Northern Shrikes this year and were found mostly in the northern two-thirds of the state.

Gull numbers were about the same or higher than last year with most reports coming from December and early January. For northern owl species, twenty Snowy Owls were found, with about the same number of reports for Northern Saw-whet Owls. Long-eared Owls numbers were up from last year and Short-eared Owls were higher than last year. Numbers of Merlins and Peregrine Falcons were the same as last year with three Prairie Falcons reported.

There were higher reports of longspurs and buntings than last year and about one-half the number of Horned Larks. There were good numbers of wintering sparrows throughout the period. Blackbirds made a good showing throughout the period. Winter finch numbers were down from last year with reports of both crossbills this year. Numbers of Common Redpolls were up considerably from last year with over 380 report this year compared to about 40 last year with a bonus Hoary Redpoll showing up in January. Numbers of Pine Siskins were down considerably from last year. Both crossbill numbers were lower compared to last year. Red-breasted Nuthatch numbers were a lot lower than last year. Three warbler species stayed late again this year with a different mixture being found in December with another Rose-breasted Grosbeak hanging around again this year.

## UNUSUAL SPECIES

The records committee accepted records of six species this winter, all of them accidental or casual in the state: Mottled Duck, Harlequin Duck, California Gull, Ferruginous Hawk, Evening Grosbeak, and Hoary Redpoll. There were several unusual birds found this winter including American Woodcock, American Bittern, Osprey, Bohemian Waxwing, Black-throated Blue Warbler, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

## SPECIES DATA

All CAPS – Casual or Accidental species. \* – documented. County names are in *italics*. Full names of contributors are at the end of the article. Abbreviations used: **ad** – adult, **AHHP** – Ada Hayden Heritage Park, **CP** – county park, **imm** – immature, **juv** – juvenile, **L** – lake, **L&D** – lock and dam, **Lucas** – Lucas Unit, Stephens State Forest, **M** – marsh, **m.ob.** – many observers, **NC** – nature center, **NWR** – national wildlife refuge, **P** – park, **ph** – photo, **PI** – plumage, **R** – river, **RA** – recreation area, **Res** – reservoir, **SP** – state park, **SRA** – state recreation area.

**Snow Goose:** Highest numbers were 4516 on 3 Dec at DeSoto NWR *Harrison* (KJM), 500 on 11 Dec at Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt *Polk* (CPL, EE, HL, WiC), 5000 on 13 Dec at DeSoto NWR *Harrison* (JSt), 100,000–150,000 on 26–28 Dec at DeSoto NWR *Harrison* (MHe), 500 on 31 Dec at Brown L/IPS WA *Woodbury* (BFH), 1000 on 3 Jan at Missouri Valley *Harrison* (PaP), 600 on 17 Jan at DeSoto NWR *Harrison* (CD), and 1000 on 27 Dec at Heron Bend CA *Lee* (SBi).

**Ross's Goose:** There were 39 reports this year with highest numbers of 300 on 3 Dec at DeSoto NWR *Harrison* (KJM), 10 on 14 Dec at DeSoto NWR *Harrison* (KGo), 12 on 29 Dec at Missouri Valley *Harrison* (POR), and 10 on 21 Feb at Cone Marsh WA *Louisa* (DP).

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** Highest numbers were 21,377 on 3 Dec at DeSoto NWR *Harrison* (KJM), 450 on 24 Dec at Cone Marsh WA *Louisa* (DaG), 800 on 18 Jan at Snyder Bend *Woodbury*

(MaH), 2500 on 27 Feb at Heron Bend CA *Lee* (SBi), and 2000–8000 on 28 Feb at Cone Marsh WA *Louisa* (SP, CRE).

**Cackling Goose:** There were 374 reports this year: Highest numbers were 1020 on 3 Dec at DeSoto NWR *Harrison* (KJM), 100 on 7 Dec at Blue L *Monona* (BFH), 147 on 7 Dec at Big Creek L *Polk* (CW), 112 on 23 Dec at AHHP *Story* (WO), 500 on 27 Dec at L Manawa *Pottawat-tamie* (MHe), and 100 on 28 Feb at DeSoto NWR *Harrison* (JSt).



*Cackling Goose, West Lake Park, Johnson, 18 December 2021. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*

**Canada Goose:** The largest concentrations were 4195 on 3 Dec at DeSoto NWR *Harrison* (KJM), 5500 on 31 Jan at Urbandale *Polk* (BE), 7500 on 18 Feb at Blue L *Monona* (GLV), and 5500 on 28 Feb at Green Island WA *Jackson* (TM).



*Canada Goose, James Miller Park - Grinnell, Poweshiek, 3 December 2021. Photograph by Ken Saunders II, Grinnell, IA.*

**Mute Swan:** Two records this year: 1–4 on 2 Dec–21 Feb along Mississippi R from L&D 14 south to Credit Is and Nahant M *Scott* (RyC, m.ob.) and one on 11 Dec at Belle Plaine *Benton* (DS).

**Trumpeter Swan:** There were 886 reports from around the state this winter with high counts of 500 on 4 Dec at Amana Lily Pond *Iowa* (DRa), 329–380 on 3–17 Jan at Dale Maffitt Res *Polk* (DTh), and 331 on 12 Jan near Brenton Sl *Dallas* (AB).

**Tundra Swan:** There were 85 reports including high counts of 138 on 2 Jan at Deere Dike *Dubuque* (DAS), 150 on 12 Jan at S Sabula Lakes P *Jackson* (AP), and 75 on 14 Feb at Rock Creek County P *Clinton* (MR).

**Wood Duck:** There were 21 reports this year after 26 last year. Highest number: three on 22–30 Dec at Swan L SP *Carroll* (WO, MTW). There were ten additional locations where two birds were counted during the period.

**Blue-winged Teal:** Only one record this this season: one on 4 Dec at Swan L SP *Carroll* (CPL, EE, HL, MKS, WiC).

**Northern Shoveler:** There were 76 reports this year after 182 reports last year. Highest numbers reported: 27 on 4 Dec at L McBride *Johnson* (MHB), 108–380 on 1–4 Dec at Swan L SP *Carroll* (MTW, CPL, EE, HL, MKS, WiC), 500 on 19 Dec at Trumpeter M *Lee* (SBi), and 25 on 27 Dec at Heron Bend CA *Lee* (SBi).

**Gadwall:** There were 124 reports this year after 160 last year with highest numbers of 34 on 2 Dec at Little Storm L *Buena Vista* (DSi), 40 on 14 Dec at Mississippi R *Clinton* (KJM), 36 on 17 Dec at Bays Branch



WA *Guthrie* (BFH), 100 on 19 Dec at Trumpeter M *Lee* (SBi), and 117 at Pony Creek P *Mills* (JKu).

**American Wigeon:** There were 73 reports this winter after 86 last year with highs of 56 on 17 Dec at Bays Branch *Buena Vista* (CW), 12 on 23 Dec at Mar Lee P and West L P *Johnson* (MHB), and 12 on 8 Feb at DeSoto NWR *Harrison* (DyB).

**Mallard:** Highest numbers reported were 2085 on 3 Dec at DeSoto NWR *Harrison* (KJM), 2800 – 4280 on 6–9 Dec at Polk City WA *Polk* (CW, AB), and 3500 on 30 Dec at Riverton WA *Fremont* (SQ).

**American Black Duck:** There were 90 reports this year after 76 last year with most coming from eastern and central Iowa and three from northwestern Iowa. Highest numbers were four on 11 Dec at Lake Ridge Pond *Johnson* (JMc, MHB, TBo), four to five on 12–23 Dec at Deere Dike *Dubuque* (DAS, AIH, JHa), four on 31 Dec at Polk City *Polk* (AB), and four on 16 Jan at *Dubuque Dubuque* (CKr).

**MOTTLED DUCK:** One on 8 – 12 Dec at Lake Ridge Pond *Johnson* (\*JMc, \*BCC, \*CRE, JBo, \*CT, \*EIW, WV, DS, DW, JDM, \*MHB, NBe, PL, TM).



Northern Pintail, West Lake Park, Johnson, 11 December 2021. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.

**Northern Pintail:** There were 136 reports for the period after 121 last year. High counts were 31–55 on 6–9 Dec at Polk City WA *Polk* (CW, AB), 32–35 on 25 Feb at Deere Dike *Dubuque* (TM, DAS), and 29 on 27 Feb at Cone Marsh WA *Louisa* (DaG).

**Green-winged Teal:** There were 66 reports this year after 150 last year. Highest counts were 81 on 3 Dec at DeSoto NWR *Harrison* (KJM), 22 on 24 Dec at Cone Marsh WA *Louisa* (DaG), and 52 on 16 Feb at Dale Maffitt Res *Madison* (KP).

**Canvasback:** A total of 190 reports were submitted this year after 147 last year with high counts of 2237 on 14 Dec at Mississippi R *Clinton* (KJM), 100–200 on 13–23 Jan at Mississippi R L&D 14 *Scott* (JKe, BHo, STh), and 100–250 on 12–19 Feb at Mississippi R between Princeton and LeClaire *Scott* (EEO, WGH).



Canvasback, Saylorville Reservoir spillway, Polk, 8 January 2022. Photograph by Doug Harr, Ogden, IA.

**Redhead:** Highest counts were 29 on 17 Dec at Bays Branch WA *Guthrie* (CW), 25 on 12 Feb at Mississippi R between Princeton and LeClaire *Scott* (EEO), and 20 on 19 Feb at Mississippi R *Des Moines* (VR).

**Ring-necked Duck:** Highest numbers were 100 on 7 Dec at Storm Lake *Buena Vista* (IB), 1200 on 19 Dec at Trumpeter M *Lee* (SBI), and 115 on 26 Dec at Johnston gravel pits *Polk* (RLC).



*Ring-necked Duck, West Lake Park, Johnson, 11 December 2021. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA..*

**Greater Scaup:** There were 40 reports this season after 45 last year with high counts of four on 26 Dec at Clive L *Polk* (KP), four on 26 Dec at Johnston gravel pits *Polk* (RLC), four on 11 Jan at Dale Maffitt Res *Dallas* (KP), four on 21 Feb at Johnston gravel pits *Polk* (RJT), and four on 28 Feb at Dale Maffitt Res *Dallas* (KP).

**Lesser Scaup:** A total of 287 reports this winter after 351 last year. High counts: 290 on 19 Dec at Quad Cities *Scott* (KJM), 65 on 29 Jan at Bettendorf *Scott* (DAS), 80 on 5 Feb at Mississippi R L&D 19 *Lee* (JMc), 120 on 5 Feb at Victory P *Lee* (TNJ), and 68 on 27 Feb at Muscatine *Muscatine* (PL).

**HARLEQUIN DUCK:** One on 6 Dec on the Missouri R, Onawa *Monona* (\*SM, BRe).

**Surf Scoter:** Two this winter on opposite sides of the state: one on 3–21 Dec at L Manawa *Pottawattamie*

(KH) and one on 4 Dec at Mississippi R L&D 15 *Scott* (SMF).

**White-winged Scoter:** Only one found this season on 1 Jan at Lake McBride *Johnson* (JMc, MHB, TBo).

**Long-tailed Duck:** Eighteen reports this season after 57 last year. This year there was one report from the western part of the state, two from the central part of the state with the remaining 15 reported from the eastern part of the state, most along the Mississippi R. One to two on 12–16 Dec at Deere Dike *Dubuque* (DBe, DAS, AIH, JHa), two on 13 Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (JF), and two (one juv male and one juv female) on 30 Jan at Mississippi R L&D 19 *Lee* (SJD). All other reports were of single birds.

**Bufflehead:** There were 75 reports this year after 117 last year with highs of 16 on 6 Dec at Swan L SP *Carroll* (MTW), 24 on 6 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (CW), and 19 on 20 Dec at Mississippi R L&D 9 *Allamakee* (BR).



*Common Goldeneye, West Lake Park, Johnson, 23 December 2021. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*

**Common Goldeneye:** High counts were 397 on 2 Jan at Deere Dike *Dubuque* (DAS), 500 on 12 Jan

at LeClaire *Scott* (WGH), 404 on 29 Jan at I-80 Bridge *Scott* (GP, KWi), 500 on 6 Feb at I-80 Bridge *Scott* (GDe, SDe), and 500 on 12 Feb at Mississippi R between Princeton and LeClaire *Scott* (EEO).

**Common Goldeneye x Hooded Merganser:** One individual on 12 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD).

**Hooded Merganser:** High counts were 52–84 on 1–12 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SCS, CW, JB, AB).

**Common Merganser:** High counts were 2100–3400 at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB, RLC).

**Red-breasted Merganser:** There were 37 reports this season after 34 last year. Highest numbers were 11–45 on 2–5 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (CW, AB), 10 on 4 Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (JG), and 13 on 17 Dec at L McBride *Johnson* (MDR).

**Ruddy Duck:** There were 51 reports this year after 263 last year with high counts of 3–28 on 1–28 Dec at L Manawa *Pottawattamie* (DH, CW, KH, CSt), 5 on 17 Dec at Bays Branch WA *Guthrie* (CW), 3 on 28 Dec at DeSoto NWR *Harrison* (MHe), and 3 on 29 Jan at Red Rock Res *Marion* (JJa).

**Northern Bobwhite:** Eight reports this winter compared to seventeen last year with high counts of 6 on 19 Dec at L LaShane *Decatur* (LW), 5 on 23 Dec in rural *Sac* (DSi), and 12 on 27 Feb at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (BCC).

**Wild Turkey:** High: 153 on 3 Jan in rural *Clayton* (KJM), 343 on 4 Jan in rural *Clayton* (KJM), 34 on 22 Jan at Linn Grove *Buena Vista* (DSi), 52 on 28 Jan in rural Denver *Bremer*

(KCR), and 50 on 16 Feb at Mar Oak *Cerro Gordo* (VP).

**Ruffed Grouse:** No reports again this winter season after none were reported last year.

**Gray Partridge:** Eighteen reports this year after 87 last year with highs of 10 on 3 Jan in rural *Clayton* (KJM), 7–15 on 15–29 Jan in rural Nevada *Story* (EEO, HL, PMi, WiC, WV, PKo), 5 on 7 Feb at Mason City *Cerro Gordo* (MH), and 6 on 23 Feb at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (HDP).

**Ring-necked Pheasant:** There were 444 reports this year after 714 last year with highs of 51 on 17 Jan near Zearing *Story* (WiC), 61 on 28 Jan at Prairie Creek grassland *Polk* (AB), 46 on 5 Feb at Dunbar Slough WA *Greene* (MTW), and 50 on 25 Feb at I-35 at Iowa R *Hamilton* (AB).

**Pied-billed Grebe:** This year there were ten reports after 51 last year, six were from central, one from eastern, and three from western Iowa. All reports were of one or two individuals.

**Horned Grebe:** Two records: one on 1 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SCS) and one on 4 Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (JG).

**Eurasian Collared-Dove:** Highest counts were 65 on 19 Dec at Saylorville Res *Dallas* (JB), 52 on 25 Dec in rural *Buchanan* (KJM), and 50 on 30 Jan at Brenton Feed Lot *Dallas* (RJT).

**Mourning Dove:** High counts of 110 on 5 Dec at Burlington *Des Moines* (BWi), 94 on 14 Dec in rural *Clinton* (KJM), 96 on 23 Dec in rural *Muscatine* (KJM), and 111 on 4 Jan at Mississippi R *Clinton* (KJM).

**Sora:** One was seen on 4 Dec at Montrose M *Lee* (SJD).

**American Coot:** There were 83 reports this season after 59 last year with highs of 65 on 2 Dec at L Manawa *Pottawattamie* (CSt, KH), 50–60 on 17 Dec at Green Island WA *Jackson* (MR, KJM, DBa), 35 on 17 Dec at Bays Branch WA *Guthrie* (CW), and 32 on 26 Dec at Johnston gravel pits *Polk* (RLC).

**Sandhill Crane:** There were 32 reports this winter with high counts of 120 on 2 Dec at Otter Creek M WA *Tama* (KS), 195 on 4 Dec near New Albin *Allamakee* (BR), and 376 on 14 Dec in rural *Clinton* (KJM).

**Killdeer:** There were 66 reports after 27 last year. Highest numbers were five on 4 Dec at Palo Power Plant road *Linn* (BT), six on 5 Dec at Amana Lily Pond *Linn* (DS), six on 16 Dec at Lewis Bottoms *Linn* (WV), and six on 21 Feb in rural *Poweshiek* (CPL).

**Dunlin:** Two were observed on 4 Dec at Heron Bend *Lee* (SJD).

**American Woodcock:** One was extremely late (or extraordinarily early) on 8 Jan at Lime Creek CA *Cerro Gordo* (BVL).

**Wilson's Snipe:** Four reports this year with three in eastern Iowa and one in central Iowa: one on 6 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SSP), one on 17 Dec in rural *Jackson* (KJM), 12 on 24 Dec at Cone M *Louisa* (DaG), and six on 4 Jan at Montrose M *Lee* (JLF).

**Bonaparte's Gull:** One report of a late individual on 1 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SSP).

**Franklin's Gull:** All: one on 4–5 Dec at Big Creek SP *Polk* (RLC, CW), one on 19 Dec at L LaShane *Decatur* (LW), and one juv on 28 Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD-

ph).

**Ring-billed Gull:** Highest numbers were 4500 on 2 Dec at L Manawa *Pottawattamie* (CSt, KH), 14,000 on 19 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC), and 4000 on 22 Dec at Johnston gravel pits *Polk* (RLC).

**CALIFORNIA GULL:** One record of one individual on 29 Dec at Mississippi R, Fort Madison *Lee* (\*CoDo).

**Herring Gull:** High counts: 480 on 14 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB), 120 on 16 Jan at Mississippi R, Davenport *Scott* (JMc), 186 on 29 Jan at Quad Cities *Scott* (KJM), and 162 on 31 Jan at Lindsay P *Scott* (SMF).

**Iceland Gull:** There were 70 reports this year after 48 last year and widely distributed in gull flocks at various large water impoundments and river dams in the central and eastern part of the state: Highest numbers: three (2 ad and 1 juv) on 5 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB) and two on 8 Feb at Mississippi R L&D 14 *Scott* (JF, SMF).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** There were 88 reports this winter for this species after 40 last year. This species was widely reported in gull flocks in central and eastern Iowa. High counts: four on 14–26 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB, RJT), three on 30 Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (JF), four on 12 Jan at Lindsay P *Scott* (JF), and three on 17 Jan at Mississippi R, Davenport *Scott* (JF).

**Glaucous Gull:** There were 54 reports this winter after 13 last year. Most reports were of one or two individuals near the dam on Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB, JG, RLC, RJT). Other

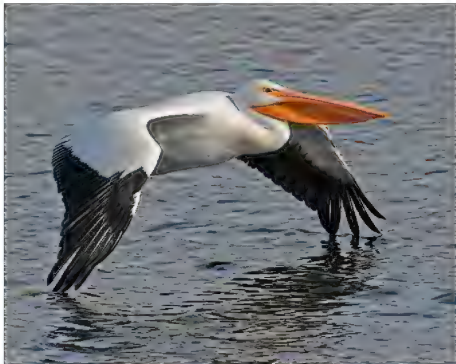


single individuals were found along the Mississippi R from Dubuque to Quad Cities and at the large water impoundments in central Iowa.

**Red-throated Loon:** One ad basic plumage on 13 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC).

**Common Loon:** There were 16 reports this year after seven last year. Highest numbers were 4 on 2–4 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB) and 2 on 4 Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (JG)

**Double-crested Cormorant:** There were 54 reports this year after 36 last year. Highest numbers were 18 on 2 Dec at Purple Martin L Water Resource Area *Polk* (KP), 12–20 on 3–5 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC, JB), 4 on 4 Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (JG), and 21 on 14 Dec at Mississippi R *Clinton* (KJM).



*American White Pelican, Red Rock Recreation Area, Marion, 31 January 2022. Photograph by Ken Saunders II, Grinnell, IA.*

**American White Pelican:** There were 276 reports throughout the period after 264 last year, most below the dams at Saylorville Res *Polk* and Red Rock Res *Marion* and at L&D 19 on the Mississippi R Keokuk *Lee*. High counts were 430 on 8 Jan at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB), 100 on 12 Jan at

Red Rock Res *Marion* (KS), and 500 on 19 Feb at Victory P Mississippi R L&D 19 *Lee* (TA).

**American Bittern:** One was found completely out of season on 4 Jan at Elk Creek Elkport *Clayton* (\*BG).

**Great Blue Heron:** There were 64 reports submitted this year after 88 last year with high counts of 14 on 6 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (DTh), 18 on 15 Dec in rural *Clinton* (KJM), 31 on 19 Dec at Trumpeter M *Lee* (SBI), and 16 on 4 Jan at Mississippi R, Burlington *Des Moines* (JLF).

**Turkey Vulture:** There were 13 reports this year after five reports last year. This winter one decided to start migrating north in mid- to late January and there were an unusually high number of 12 reports in February. Highest was three on 26 Feb at Iowa City *Johnson* (SD). Other reports were of single individuals observed in the eastern half of the state.



*Osprey, L Ahquabi SP, Warren, 1 December 2021. Photograph by Linda Rudolph, Coralville, IA.*

**Osprey:** One very late individual was found on 1 Dec at L Ahquabi SP Warren (LGR, ph).

**Golden Eagle:** There were 20 reports. Nine were reported from Dec, nine from Jan, and two from

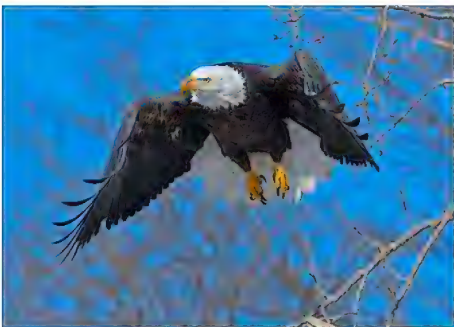
Feb, with the following distribution: six from western, ten from central, and four from eastern Iowa. Highest numbers were three on 3 Jan in rural *Clayton* (KJM) and four on 4 Jan in rural *Clayton* (KJM).

**Northern Harrier:** There were 251 reports this season after 205 last year with highs of seven on 1 Dec at Green Island WA *Jackson* (MR), 12 on 19 Dec at L LaShane *Decatur* (LW), six on 3 Jan in rural *Clayton* (KJM), and six on 6 Feb at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (HDP).

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** A total of 175 reports, 33 from western, 70 from central, and 72 from eastern Iowa.

**Cooper's Hawk:** A total of 462 reports this year after 402 last year, with 56 from western, 166 from central, and 240 from eastern Iowa.

**Northern Goshawk:** Three reports this winter. All: one on 2 Jan at Inwood *Lyon* (CA), one on 30 Jan at Grundy Center *Grundy* (CPL), and one on 27 Feb at Dubuque *Dubuque* (TM).



Bald Eagle, near Colfax, Jasper, 29 January 2022. Photograph by Christopher Knisley, Colfax, IA.

**Bald Eagle:** There were 3249 reports after 2747 last year. High counts on the Mississippi R included 301 on 10 Jan at Mississippi R *Clin-*

*ton* (KJM), 369 on 12 Jan at Mississippi R *Louisa* (KJM), and 269 on 29 Jan at Mississippi R *Muscatine* (KJM). High counts away from the Mississippi R were 138 on 23 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB), 150 on 8 Jan at Red Rock Res *Marion* (ASp), and 100 on 13 Feb at Waubonsie Access WA *Fremont* (JaCo).

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** There were 92 reports after 78 last year with high counts of two from seven locations and the rest being one individual. There were also 12 from central, 57 from eastern, and 23 from western Iowa.

**Red-tailed Hawk:** There were 35 Harlan's/dark morph, seven Kridler's/light morph, and three leucistic individuals reported this winter. High counts were 23 on 17 Dec in rural *Jackson* (KJM), 27 on 19 Dec in Quad Cities *Scott* (KJM), 24 on 19 Dec at L LaShane *Decatur* (LW), 41 on 3 Jan in rural *Clayton* (KJM), and 58 on 4 Jan in rural *Clayton* (KJM).



Rough-legged Hawk, Iowa Arboretum, Boone, 4 February 2022. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.

**Rough-legged Hawk:** There were 738 reports totaling 1209 individuals this winter. Highest were 16 on 19 Dec at L LaShane *Decatur* (LW), 31 on 3 Jan in rural *Clayton*

(KJM), 30 on 4 Jan in rural *Clayton* (KJM), 14 on 8 Jan near Woodburn *Clarke* (JG).

**FERRUGINOUS HAWK:** One ad was observed on 19 Feb near Wall Lake *Sac* (\*DSi).

**Eastern Screech-Owl:** A total of 86 reports for this common nocturnal species, with highs of nine on 17 Dec in rural *Jackson* (KJM) and nine on 4 Jan in rural *Clayton* (KJM).

**Great Horned Owl:** There were 232 reports and a total of 353 individuals of this common species after 287 reports last year. High numbers were 13 on 17 Dec in rural *Jackson* (KJM), 27 on 3 Jan in rural *Clayton* (KJM), and 11 on 4 Jan in rural *Clayton* (KJM).



*Snowy Owl, near Ogden, Boone, 3 December 2021. Photograph by Doug Harr, Ogden, IA.*

**Snowy Owl:** This season there were 20 reported after 16 last year and one the year before. One on 2 Dec at Owego Wetland Complex *Woodbury* (GLV, RWR, BFH, JP, MaRu), one on 3 Dec near Ogden *Boone* (DCH, EEO, WO), one juv female on 4 Dec near Zirbel Slough *Cerro Gordo* (PH, RGo), one on 4 Dec near Gilman *Marshall* (API), one on 4 Dec near Duncombe *Webster* (ASp, EEO, MWe), one on 5 Dec near Hancock *Hancock* (RGo), one on 8 Dec near Spirit L *Dickin-*

*son* (JTi), one juv male on 8–10 Dec near Kelley *Story* (SSP, PaP, CW, CPL, EE, HL, RJT, AB, SJD), one on 11 Dec near Independence *Buchanan* (WV), one on 16 Dec near Panora *Dallas* (MTW), one near Tripoli *Bremer* (MWe), one juv male on 22 Dec near Fairbank *Buchanan* (MWe), one on 24 Dec near Rhodes/ Melbourne *Marshall* (MP, ASp), one on 26 Dec near Webster City *Hamilton* (TMH), one on 27 Dec–9 Jan near Beaman *Grundy* (DGE, ASp, MP), one juv female on 14–23 Jan near Nevada *Story* (SSP, WO, IC, RH, JoMc, Abu, BTH, KeB, RSi, SHo, LG), one on 17–23 near Polk City *Polk* (JB, RJT, JG, AB, SJD), one juv female on 23 Feb near Lime Springs *Howard* (IB), one on 26 Feb at Tiffin Rest Area *Johnson* (MSu), and one on 28 Feb near Terril *Dickinson* (ET).



*Barred Owl, Iowa Arboretum, Boone, 18 January 2022. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.*

**Barred Owl:** There were 363 reports this year for this common spe-



cies during the period after 322 last year. Highs were 27 on 3 Jan in rural *Clayton* (KJM) and 17 on 4 Jan in rural *Clayton* (KJM).

**Long-eared Owl:** There were 38 reports this winter after 25 last year. Highest numbers: four on 23 Dec near Nashua *Floyd* (BCC), five to six on 15–19 Feb at Oak Grove and Big Sioux P *Sioux* (TKr, Sfo).



*Short-eared Owl, East of Spring Run Complex WMA, Dickinson, 7 December 2021. Photograph by Ed Thelen, Spirit Lake, IA.*

**Short-eared Owl:** A total of 122 reports from across the state after 91 last year. Highest numbers reported were 10–16 on 2–20 Dec at Green Island WA *Jackson* (DBe, EB, MR, KJM), eight on 11 Jan at Pool Slough WA *Allamakee* (CW), and five on 31 Jan at Dunbar Slough WA *Greene* (MTW).

**Northern Saw-whet Owl:** A total of 55 reports this winter: seven on 17 Dec in *Jackson* (KJM), two on 3 Jan in *Clayton* (KJM), two on 4 Jan in *Clayton* (KJM), two on 22 Jan at Moorehead Pioneer P *Ida* (ThD), and three on 15 Feb at Hickory Hills P *Tama* (CPL). Most of the reports were of single individuals, mostly found at five locations: Hickory Hill P *Tama*, Moorehead Pioneer P *Ida*, Saylorville Res *Polk*, Oak Grove and

Big Sioux P *Sioux*, and Lime Creek CA *Cerro Gordo*.

**Belted Kingfisher:** A total of 230 reports of 254 individuals with high counts of four on 15 Dec in *Clinton* (KJM), three on 19 Dec in *Scott* (KJM), three on 3 Jan in *Clayton* (KJM), and nine in *Clayton* (KJM).

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** There were 250 reports this winter after 165 last year. Highs: 13 on 16 Dec at Land of the Swamp White Oak Preserve *Muscatine* (LQ, LGR), 18 on 16 Dec at Syracuse WA *Clinton* (MR, KJM), 14 on 25 Dec at Effigy Mounts National Monument *Allamakee* (KT), and 12 on 12 Jan at Pikes Peak SP *Clayton* (DCo).



*Red-bellied Woodpecker, Granger, Dallas, 18 February 2022. Photograph by Merle G. Hall, Granger, IA.*

**Red-bellied Woodpecker:** There were 3233 reports after 3137 last year with highs of 36 on 14 Dec in *Clinton* (KJM), 57 on 19 Dec in *Scott* (KJM), 57 on 3 Jan in *Clayton* (KJM), 77 on 4 Jan in *Clayton* (KJM).

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** There were 88 reports from all areas of the state. All but seven were of single individuals of these species.



Highest counts: seven on 17 Dec in rural *Jackson* (KJM), three on 19 Dec in *Scott* (KJM), and three at East Lake P *Clarke* (DeT).



Downy Woodpecker, Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt, Polk, 25 February 2022. Photograph by Christopher Knisley, Colfax, IA.

**Hairy Woodpecker:** There were 1420 reports statewide after 1664 last year with highs of 13 on 23 Dec in *Muscatine* (KJM), 26 on 3 Jan in *Clayton* (KJM), and 13 on 4 Jan in *Clayton* (KJM).

**Northern Flicker:** A total of 970 reports were submitted after 531 last year with highs of 16 on 19 Dec at L LaShane *Decatur* (LW), 16 on 19 Dec at Camp Dodge *Polk* (JG, RJT), 20 on 23 Dec at DeSoto NWR *Harrison* (ThD), and 16 on 23 Dec in *Muscatine* (KJM).

**Pileated Woodpecker:** A total of 343 reports of 438 individuals after 259 reports, with all but five records from central and eastern Iowa. Highs were six on 15 Dec in *Clinton* (KJM), four on 17 Dec in *Jackson* (KJM), four in *Scott* (KJM), four on 31 Dec at Des Moines Y Camp *Boone* (AMo, AK), and five on 3 Jan in *Clayton* (KJM). High count for the western section was two on 22 Jan at Wilson Island SP *Pottawattamie* (MJM).

**American Kestrel:** There were 812 reports of a total 1199 individuals after 823 reports last year. High counts were 24 on 15 Dec in *Clinton* (KJM), 31 on 23 Dec in *Muscatine* (KJM), 25 on 4 Jan in *Clayton* (KJM).



American Kestrel, Otter Creek Marsh WMA, Tama, 2 December 2021. Photograph by Ken Saunders II, Grinnell, IA.

**Merlin:** A total of 112 were reported after 113 last year from 33 counties with a high of two on 7 Dec –4 Jan at Jefferson Cemetery *Greene* (MTW, EEO) and two on 4 Jan at Aspen Grove Cemetery *Des Moines* (JLF). Of those that reported races only four were identified as *F. c. richardsonii* and two were identified as *F. c. columbarius*.



Merlin, East of Fostoria, Clay, 7 February 2022. Photograph by Ed Thelen, Spirit Lake, IA.

**Peregrine Falcon:** All: one on 1 Dec – 19 Feb in Burlington *Des Moines* (JLF, SBi, BWi, JMc, VR), one to two on 2 Dec–25 Feb at Mississippi R L&D 15 *Scott* (RyC, SMF, RAS, JMc, FSS, JKe, CKr), One on 9 Dec near Boone *Boone* (TMH), one on 13 Dec at Green Island WA *Jackson* (EB), one to two on 20 Dec –15 Feb at Cedar Rapids *Linn* (PMo, DP, WV, CT, BCC, JE, DS), one on 23 Dec–20 Jan at Riverside P *Muscatine* (HL, JHo, GAs, BT), one on 26 Jan at Dubuque River Walk *Dubuque* (SMu), and one on 28 Feb at Sabula *Jackson* (EB).



*Prairie Falcon*, Perkins Road CAFO, Sac, 16 February 2022. Photograph by Clayton Will, Madrid, IA.

**Prairie Falcon:** All: one on 3 Dec at Owego Wetland Complex *Woodbury* (BFH, JP), one on 18 Jan –20 Feb near Nemaha *Buena Vista/Sac* (ET, DSi, DP, BCC, WV, MWe, DRS, CW, MJM, BeP, PaP, ThD), and one on 15 Feb at Council Bluffs *Pottawattamie* (JSt).

**Eastern Phoebe:** One was seen and was heard calling on 2–3 Dec at Oak Grove and Big Sioux P *Sioux* (KVZ, WB) and one was found on 15 Dec in *Clinton* (\*JeSt, RyW).

**Loggerhead Shrike:** One on 23

Dec in *Union* (SJD) and one on 15 Feb at L Wapello SP *Davis* (ZiR).

**Northern Shrike:** There were 91 reports of 94 individuals this winter with most of them scattered over the northern two-thirds of the state except one from the southern third: one on 19 Dec at L LaShane *Decatur* (LW).



*Black-capped Chickadee*, Big Creek SP, Polk, 23 December 2021. Photograph by Clayton Will, Madrid, IA.

**Tufted Titmouse:** There were 835 reports after 1083 last year with highs of 15 on 17 Dec in *Jackson* (KJM), 15 on 19 Dec at Quad Cities *Scott* (KJM), 16 on 23 Dec in *Muscatine* (KJM), and 17 on 4 Jan in *Clayton* (KJM).

**Horned Lark:** There were 474 reports after 751 last year with highs of 600 on 16 Dec near Panora *Dallas* (MTW), 338 on 3 Jan in *Clayton* (KJM), and 346 on 4 Jan in *Clayton* (KJM).

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** Fourteen reports this year after eight last year, all reports of single birds from eleven counties.

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** There were 70 reports this season after 37 last year. Most reports were of 1–4 individuals with a few high-

er counts. High counts were six on 4 Dec at State Forest Nursery *Story* (SSP) and 12 on 17 Dec in *Jackson* (KJM).

**Bohemian Waxwing:** One was located on 31 Dec at Elk Creek M WA *Worth* (PH).

**Cedar Waxwing:** There were 338 reports this season: High counts were 120 on 18 Dec at Ballard Creek corridor *Story* (SSP), 135 on 19 Dec at L LaShane *Decatur* (LW), 135 on 19 Dec at Camp Dodge *Polk* (JG, RJT), and 196 at AHHP *Story* (WO).

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** There were 369 reports of this species from throughout the state after 509 the year before. Numbers are back to a more normal year for this species. Highs: 16 on 4 Dec at State Forest Nursery *Story* (SSP) and eight on 23 Dec in *Muscatine* (KJM).

**Brown Creeper:** There were 454 reports this year. The highest numbers were 16 on 17 Dec in *Jackson* (KJM), seven on 18 Dec in *Linn* (KJM), eight on 19 Dec in Quad Cities *Scott* (KJM), and seven on 3 Jan in *Clayton* (KJM).

**Winter Wren:** There were 104 reports from throughout the season with a total of 140 individuals with a high count of five on 17 Dec at Green Island WA *Jackson* (MR, KJM), seven on 17 Dec in *Jackson* (KJM), and four on 17 Dec at Pleasant Creek Unit NWFR *Jackson* (KJM).

**Carolina Wren:** There were 163 reports this season with a total of 209 individuals after 582 reports and 661 individuals last year, 153 reports and 220 individuals the year before. Most report were of one or two individuals, mostly from the southern and eastern parts of the state, with high counts of

four on 18 Dec at Iowa City *Johnson* (DHe) and four on 19 Dec at Quad Cities *Scott* (KJM).

**Gray Catbird:** Seven records this winter: one on 1–23 Dec at DeSoto NWR *Harrison* (DY, ThD), one on 9–17 Dec at Emma McCarthy Lee P *Story* (KiM), one on 16–19 Dec at Devil's Glenn P *Scott* (\*FSS), one on 24 Dec at Morgan Creek P *Linn* (ASc), one on 4 Jan at Burlington *Des Moines* (JLF), one on 1 Jan at Bear Creek *Story* (EEO), and one on 21 Feb at DeSoto NWR *Harrison* (JSt).

**Brown Thrasher:** Six records this winter: one on 1 Dec at Burlington *Des Moines* (JLF), one on 11 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB), one on 17 Dec at Quad Cities *Scott* (KJM), one on 3–4 Jan at Cedar River NRA *Black Hawk* (CPL, MKS, WV), one on 10–22 Jan at Hartman Reserve NC *Black Hawk* (DTM, KKI, AKO, DGE), and one on 25 Feb at Rock Valley *Sioux* (KPo).

**Northern Mockingbird:** Two records this winter season: one on 19 Dec at L LaShane *Decatur* (LW) and one on 23 Dec in *Union* (SJD).

**Eastern Bluebird:** There were 424 reports this year after 235 last year with high counts of 30 on 31 Dec near Boone *Boone* (AMo), 42 on 4 Jan in *Clayton* (KJM), and 35 on 10 Feb at Broken Kettle Grasslands *Plymouth* (BFH, JP).

**Townsend's Solitaire:** Four records this year: one on 1–29 Dec at Peterson P *Story* (CPL, EE, HB, HL, KeB, PMi, WO, CW, JoMc, WiC, DCH, HZ, WV, SSP, MWe, JMc, MP, TJD, RJT, Pap, UDG, ASp, BTh, RH, DD, AB, ABu, BCC, SBa, KVS, SCS, KY, SJD-ph), one on 4 Jan in

*Clayton* (KJM, \*JaM), one on 17 Jan at Schwab WA *Mitchell* (SSt), and one on 29 Jan at Waterman Creek area *O'Brien* (DSi).



*Townsend's Solitaire, Peterson Pits, Story, 29 January 2022. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.*

**Hermit Thrush:** There were 28 reports: highest were nine on 17 Dec in *Jackson* (KJM), two on 19 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SSP), two on 16 Jan at Mines of Spain SRA *Dubuque* (DAS), and two on 26 Feb at Green Island WA *Jackson* (CKr, TM).

**American Robin:** Numbers were higher than prior years with 867 reports for the season after 598 last year and 578 the year before, with high counts of 201 on 4 Dec at Broken Kettle Grasslands *Plymouth* (BFH, JP), 200 on 4 Jan along county highway J67 in southern *Ringgold* (CJe), 275 on 23 Jan near *Polk City Polk* (CW), and 600 on 13 Feb at Foxtails Cabin Trail *Appanoose* (ErB).

**Eurasian Tree Sparrow:** Widely reported with a total of 582 reports this year after 692 reports last year. High counts were 120 on 14 Dec at West L County P *Scott* (SMF), 140 on 23 Dec at Fairmount Cemetery

*Scott* (MaM), and 7 Jan in *Muscatine* (KJM).

**EVENING GROSBEAK:** One female appeared on 2 Jan at Ringsted *Emmet* (\*ET).

**Purple Finch:** There were a total of 136 reports after 272 last year and 85 the year before. High counts were 132 on 17 Dec in *Jackson* (KJM), 16 on 19 Dec at L LaShane *Decatur* (LW), 23 on 8 Jan at Lucas Unit Stephens State Forest *Lucas* (JG).

**Common Redpoll:** There were 383 reports this year after 41 last year and one the year before. Highest numbers were 87 on 23 Jan at Linwood Cemetery *Dubuque* (DAS), 109 on 8 Feb at Spirit L *Dickinson* (ET), and 118 on 21 Feb at Oakland Cemetery *Johnson* (CPL).



*Common Redpoll, Buena Vista Memorial Park Cemetery, Buena Vista, 25 February 2022. Photograph by Dana Siefer, Storm Lake, IA.*

**HOARY REDPOLL:** One reported this season on 25 Jan at LaPorte City *Black Hawk* (\*WV).

**Red Crossbill:** There were two reports this season with two on 25 Dec in *Buchanan* (KJM) and one on 8 Feb at New Albin *Allamakee* (BR).

**White-winged Crossbill:** Twelve reports this year from nine locations, high counts were 15 on 23



Feb at Hickory Hills P *Tama* (CBe, TSS), 14–19 on 23–24 Feb at Memorial Gardens Cemetery *Dickinson* (ET), and 29 on 28 Feb at Terril *Dickinson* (ET).

**Pine Siskin:** There were 129 reports this season after 582 last year and 66 the year before. High counts: 15 on 19 Dec at Oakland Cemetery *Johnson* (JPa), 20 on 24 Dec at Emma McCarthy Lee P *Story* (LC), 60 on 25 Dec in *Buchanan* (KJM), 15 on 9 Feb at Graceland P Cemetery *Woodbury* (BFH, JP), and 20 on 27 Feb at Graceland P Cemetery *Woodbury* (MaH).

**American Goldfinch:** High counts: 93 on 4 Jan in *Clayton* (KJM), 116 on 19 Feb at Boone residence *Boone* ((JK), and 100 on 24 Feb at Rock Valley *Sioux* (KPo).

**Lapland Longspur:** There were 129 reports with high counts of 450 on 7 Feb near Kelley *Boone* (CW), 900 on 25 Feb near Zwingle *Dubuque* (TM), and 450 on 26 Feb near Independence *Buchanan* (WV).

**Snow Bunting:** There were 103 reports this winter after 50 reports last winter: The largest numbers were 279 in rural *Clayton* (KJM), 200 on 12 Jan in rural *Howard* (KCR), and 500 on 23 Jan in rural *Cerro Gordo* (PH).

**Chipping Sparrow:** One juv on 16 Jan in *Polk* (RJT-ph).

**Field Sparrow:** 1–3 on 1–19 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SSP, RJT, RLS).

**Fox Sparrow:** There were 119 reports for this species after 46 last year. Highest counts were eight on 2 Dec at Peterson P *Story* (SSP), 4 on 4 Jan in *Clayton* (KJM), and five on 31 Jan at Hardscratch Springs/Lafaye

Gardens *Harrison* (PaP).

**American Tree Sparrow:** High counts: 210 on 18 Dec at Browns L/IPS WA *Woodbury* (BFH), 220 on 31 Dec at Dunbar Slough WA *Greene* (MTW), 220 on 3 Jan in *Clayton* (KJM), and 296 on 4 Jan in *Clayton* (KJM).

**Dark-eyed Junco:** There were 13 Oregon/Pink-sided race individuals reported. High numbers reported were 1820 on 3 Jan in *Clayton* (KJM) and 1564 on 4 Jan in *Clayton* (KJM).

**White-crowned Sparrow:** There were 249 reports after 194 last year with high counts of 34 on 4 Jan in *Clayton* (KJM), 39 on 19 Jan at Iowa Arboretum *Boone* (LGD), and 32 on 19 Dec at Saylorville Res *Boone* (CW).



*White-crowned Sparrow, Iowa Arboretum, Boone, 18 January 2022. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.*

**Harris's Sparrow:** There were 95 reports after 201 last year and 62 the year before with high counts of 20 on 3 Dec at DeSoto NWR *Harrison* (KJM), eight on 17 Jan at Beaver Creek *Dallas* (CW), and eight on 19 Jan–21 Feb at Iowa Arboretum *Boone* (LGD, CW).

**White-throated Sparrow:** There were 654 reports this winter

after 587 last year and 380 the year before. High counts were 47 on 18 Dec in *Linn* (KJM), 26 on 26 Dec at Jordan Creek P & Trail *Polk* (RJT), and 30 on 15 Feb at Hickory Hills P *Tama* (CPL).

**Savannah Sparrow:** Eight reports this season: Highs: two on 15–17 Jan at new Benton County Fen *Benton* (WV) and four on 17 Jan in *Boone* (DCH).

**Song Sparrow:** There were 506 reports this year after 806 last year after 323 the year before. High counts were 30 on 4 Dec near Burlington *Des Moines* (BWi) and 21 on 19 Dec at Quad Cities *Scott* (KJM).



*Song Sparrow, Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt, Polk, 25 January 2022. Photograph by Christopher Knisley, Colfax, IA.*

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** Ten reports consisting of four records with one on 4 Dec at AHHP *Story* (WO), one on 13 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC), one on 22 Dec at Toolesboro Access *Louisa* (\*CPL, HL, MKS, NBa, PL, \*KJM), and one on 4 Jan in *Clayton* (KJM).

**Swamp Sparrow:** There were 63 reports this year after 91 last year with a high count of 12–14 on 4–5 Dec near Burlington *Des Moines* (BWi), four on 17 Dec at Pleasant

Creek Unit, Mississippi R NWFR *Jackson* (KJM), and four on 22 Dec at Mississippi R *Louisa* (KJM).

**Eastern Towhee:** Four reports for two records: one female on 4–8 Dec near Burlington *Des Moines* (BWi) and one female on 18 Dec in *Linn* (KJM).

**Eastern Meadowlark:** Four records this winter with vocalizations after eight last year. One singing song near Burlington *Des Moines* (BWi), one with call notes on 17 Dec near Green Island WA *Jackson* (\*KJM), 14–16 giving call notes on 6–17 Jan at Moeckly Prairie *Polk* (JB, RJT), and two with call notes on 17 Jan near Vinton *Benton* (WV).

**Western Meadowlark:** There were 22 reports this winter with eight giving vocalizations: 16 on 10 Dec at Broken Kettle Grasslands *Plymouth* (BFH, JP), 15 on 13 Dec along county road F-58 near Harrison County Yard *Harrison* (PaP), nine on 16 Dec at Lehman Organic Farm *Polk* (DTh), 1–8 on 26 Feb at Crescent WA *Pottawattamie* (SM), and one on 28 Feb at Marsh Farm Wetland *Dallas* (JB).

**Red-winged Blackbird:** High counts were 3400 on 4 Dec at Coralville Res *Johnson* (MHB), 2000 on 23 Dec near Iowa City *Johnson* (LGR), and 3000 on 4 Feb near Iowa City *Johnson* (MHB).

**Brown-headed Cowbird:** High counts: 350 on 4 Dec at Coralville Res *Johnson* (MHB) and 200 on 19 Dec at Quad Cities *Scott* (KJM).

**Rusty Blackbird:** There were a total of 20 reports of 87 individuals from 13 counties. High counts: 20–25 on 30 Jan–1 Feb at Big Creek WA *Polk* (AB, RLC).

**Brewer's Blackbird:** Two reports this season: one on 4 Jan in *Clayton* (KJM, \*RZ) and one on 24 Feb near Long Grove *Scott* (RyC).

**Common Grackle:** There were 50 reports this season after 86 last year and 67 the year before with a high of 100 near Iowa City *Johnson* (MHB).

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** Three reports of single birds: one on 1 Dec at Cascade Ravine *Des Moines* (JLF), one on 4 Dec in *Lee* (SJD), and one on 17–20 Dec in Cedar Rapids *Linn* (JN, JOD).

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** A very unusual winter record and a

record late report for this species was a female coming to a feeder on 13–23 Dec in Mount Vernon *Linn* (JOD, BCC, MWe, WWH, ph).

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** There were 143 reports this season after ten last year and 30 the year before with high counts of 32 on 17 Dec in *Jackson* (KJM) and 12 on 19 Dec at L LaShane *Decatur* (LW).

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** A rare winter record of a female coming to a feeder (the same feeder as the Black-throated Blue Warbler) on 13–23 Dec in Mount Vernon *Linn* (JOD, WWH, ph).



Common Redpoll, Brenton Arboretum, Dallas, 21 January 2022. Photograph by Doug Harr, Ogden, IA.

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Ryan Christensen	RyC	Peter Leabhart	PL	Stonedahl	FSS
Linda Goady	LC	Betty Lucas	BVL	Caleb Strand	CSi
Dan Cohen	DCo	Sam Manning	SM	Joel Strafelda	JSt
Jacob Cooper	JaCo	James McCoy	JMc	Steve Stucker	SSt
Ray Cummins	RLC	Jason McCurdy	JDM	Marcia Suchy	MSu
Larry Dau	LGD	Joseph McGovern	JoMc	Debi Talbott	DeT
Graham Deese	GDe	Kelly J. McKay	KJM	Karinne Tannenbaum	KT
Suzy Deese	SDe	Mark Miles	MaM	Ed Thelen	ET
Carla Delucchi	CD	Peter Miller	PMi	Bill Thomas	BTh
Diane Dentlinger	DD	Tony Moline	TM	Dennis Thompson	DTh
Thane Disdale	ThD	Kirk Moloney	KiM	R. J. Thompson	RJT
Stephen J. Dinsmore	SJD	Jason Monson	JaM	Simon Thompson	STh
Colin Dobson	CoDo	Francis L. Moore	FLM	Connor Ties	CT
Thomas Dougherty	TJD	Paul Morf	PMo	Jamie Tigges	JTi
Seth Dudley	SD	Abigail Morgan	AMo	Bill Tollefson	BT
Jim Durbin	JOD	Michael Morris	MJM	Kendall Van Zanten	KVZ
David Eastman	DGE	Steve Murkowski	SMu	Wendy VanDeWalle	WV
Chris Edwards	CRE	Jane Nesmith	JN	Karen	
Ethan Ellis	EE	Wolfgang Oesterreich	WO	Viste-Sparkman	KVS
Jesse Ellis	JE	Alan & Karen Orr	AKO	Jerry Von Ehwegen	GLV
Bery Engebretsen	BE	Alyssa Parker	AP	Walt Wagner-Hecht	WWH
Sunday Ford	SFo	Shane Patterson	SSP	Ryan Waltz	RyW
James Forde	JF	Jason Paulios	JPa	David Weiss	DW
Steven Freed	SMF	Paul Pearson	PaP	Mark Welford	MWe
James L. Fuller	JLF	Valerie Pennington	VP	Matt Wetrich	MTW
Lindsay Gapinski	LG	Glen Perricone	GP	Kyle Wiktor	KWi
Brian Gibbs	BG	Diana Pesek	DP	Bobby Wilcox	BWi
Jay Gilliam	JG	Hai-Dang Pham	HDP	Clayton Will	CW
Katie Gooby	KGo	Andy Place	API	Eliza Willis	EIW
Rita Goranson	RGo	Beatrix Pond	BeP	Logan Wilson	LW
Ulrike Grimaldi	UDG	Kyle Post	KPo	Charles Wittman	CWi
Dawn Gunderson	DaG	Kevin Powers	KP	Donna Yates	DY
Mark Hainfield	MaH	Jerry Probst	JP	Kenny Younger	KY

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*American Wigeon, West Lake Park, Johnson, 18 December 2021. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*



*Hooded Mergansers, Iowa River Power Co. Dam, Johnson, 11 January 2022. Photograph by Linda Rudolph, Coralville, IA.*



*Gray Partridge, Story, 29 January 2022. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.*



*Ring-necked Pheasant, Saylorville Lake, south of Luther Bridge, Boone, 25 February 2022. Photograph by Clayton Will, Madrid, IA.*



*Great Blue Heron, Red Rock Recreation Area, Marion, 15 February 2022. Photograph by Ken Saunders II, Grinnell, IA.*



*Golden Eagle, north of Ionia, Chickasaw, 9 December 2021. Photograph by Rachel Hau Anderson, Ionia, IA.*



*Cooper's Hawk, Granger, Dallas, 10 February 2022. Photograph by Merle G. Hall, Granger, IA.*



*Red-shouldered Hawk, Cedar Ridge Winery, Johnson, 29 January 2022. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*



*Leucistic Red-tailed Hawk, southwest of LaPorte City, Benton, 26 January 2022. Photograph by J. Scott Garrett, Cedar Falls, IA.*



*Rough-legged Hawk, Otter Creek Marsh WMA, Tama, 20 February 2022. Photograph by Ken Saunders II, Grinnell, IA.*



*Rough-legged Hawk, Iowa Arboretum, Boone, 28 February 2022. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.*



*Short-eared Owl, Dallas, 2 January 2022. Photograph by Kevin Powers, West Des Moines, IA.*





*Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Saylorville Lake, Lakeview Access, Polk, 4 February 2022. Photograph by Doug Harr, Ogden, IA.*



*Pileated Woodpecker, Saylorville Dam, Polk, 28 February 2022. Photograph by Rodger Routh, Ankeny, IA.*



*American Kestrel, Ledges State Park area, Boone, 27 January 2022. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.*



*Prairie Falcon, Nemaha, Sac, 14 February 2022. Photograph by Dana Siefer, Storm Lake, IA.*



*Northern Shrike, Iowa Arboretum, Boone, 19 January 2022. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.*



*Horned Lark, near Colfax, Jasper, 25 February 2022. Photograph by Christopher Knisley, Colfax, IA.*



*Cedar Waxwing, Waterman Creek area, O'Brien, 12 January 2022. Photograph by Ed Thelen, Spirit Lake, IA.*



*Evening Grosbeak, Ringsted, Emmet, 2 January 2022. Photograph by Diane Twait Nelsen, Ringsted, IA.*



*Common Redpoll, North Liberty, Johnson, 29 January 2022. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*



*White-winged Crossbill, Terril Cemetery, Dickinson, 28 February 2022. Photograph by Ed Thelen, Spirit Lake, IA.*



*Harris's Sparrow, Iowa Arboretum, Boone, 18 January 2022. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.*



*Black-throated Blue Warbler, Mt Vernon, Linn, 13 December 2021. Photograph by Jim Durbin, Marion, IA.*



# Iowa Christmas Bird Count, 2021–2022

*Chris Caster*

Reports were submitted for fifty-five counts this season (Table 1). Omaha and Taylor County returned from a one-year hiatus and the newly created Louisa Y count was added.

The state experienced above average temperatures during December (IDALS 2022). A strong front bringing wind and rain moved through on the

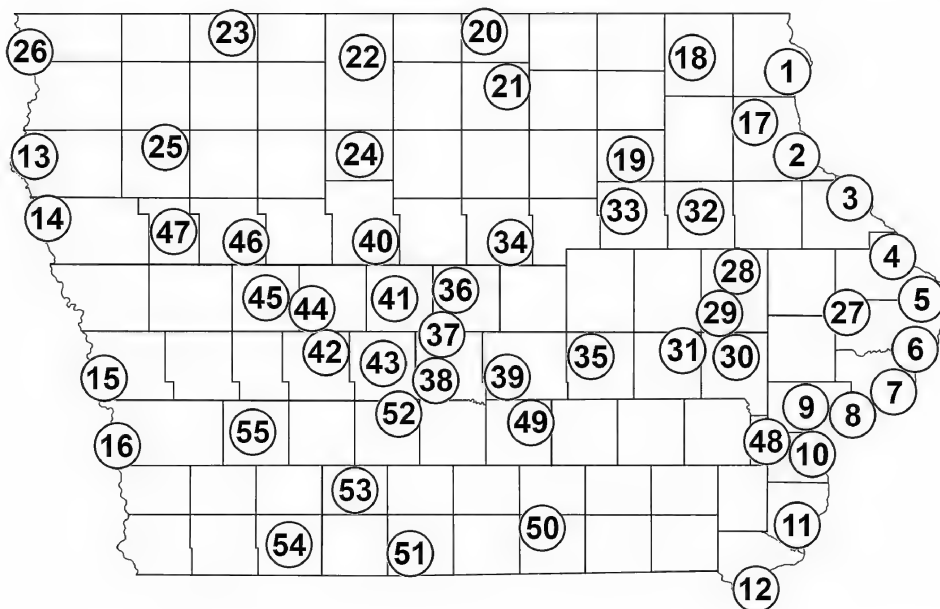


Figure 1. Map of Iowa CBC locations (see Table 1).

15th. On that day, the Princeton count reported a high of 72 degrees and 35 mph winds. Fortunately, the first count weekend over the 18th and 19th, gave milder conditions. Snow was most significant over the count period by its absence. The first front bringing significant snow was on the 29th. Counts in the northern third of the state after this date reported snow from 2 to 5 inches. Counts held Jan 2nd and 3rd reported below zero lows.

The species count was 142. The total bird count (953,317) was the highest recorded for the second straight year. As last year, Davenport had the high, and again with 97 species. Green Island recorded 93; Saylorville and Clinton 90. Other high counts were Burlington (89), Keokuk (88), and Andalusia (82). DeSoto NWR (75) and Omaha (75) led the Missouri counts. NW Clayton County (68) led the northern counts. The average count this season had 15 field observers, 7 field parties, and 60 species.

## REGULAR SPECIES

Seventeen regular species were found in record numbers and another seventeen were found in near record numbers. It was an excellent count for waterfowl. Gulls, diurnal raptors, owls, woodpeckers, and icterids also had high counts. Gallinaceous birds, frugivores, sparrows, and finches had more typical counts. Frequently reported species are recorded in Table 2. Species found on three or fewer counts are recorded in Table 3.

Canada Geese (150,956) were plentiful, but less than in recent years. Cackling Geese (1,393) were found in fair numbers. Greater White-fronted Geese (11,281) were widespread and in record numbers with 10,352 at DeSoto NWR. Snow Geese (86,804) were in numbers not seen since 2001. The majority of Snows were also at DeSoto NWR. Ross's Geese (11) were on six counts. Trumpeter Swans (2,953) were not far off their record. Tundra Swans (6,311) were in record numbers and on nine counts. Most were at Clinton, but nearly 140 were at Dubuque. This year Davenport hosted a record eight Mute Swans.

Surprisingly, Mallards (31,920) counts decreased to less than half of last year's count and their lowest count since 2009. American Black Ducks (33) were found in low, but nearly average, numbers. Gadwalls (1,587), Northern Shovelers (1,009), and Green-winged Teal (314) all had very high counts. Northern Pintails (81) and American Wigeons (94) had good counts. Wood Ducks (21) were at their average.

Canvasbacks (25,184) were at their average with 15,000 at Keokuk and 10,000 at Clinton. But they were also widespread on a total of eighteen counts. Common Goldeneyes (14,725) were above their average. Bufflehead (1,470) were in record numbers. Ring-necked Ducks (3,191) were in very high numbers and Lesser Scaup (4,026) were in good numbers. Redhead (109) and Greater Scaup (108) were both less than one-quarter their average and primarily at Keokuk. Hooded Mergansers (323) were nearly double their average. Common Mergansers (9,726) were down somewhat but Red-breasted Mergansers (23) were at their average. Ruddy Ducks (3,792) best count in six years. Long-tailed Ducks (3) were on three counts. No scoters were reported.

Pied-billed Grebes (8) were on five counts. American Coots (1,088) were found in fair numbers, as were Double-crested Cormorants (37). American White Pelicans (1,355) were in very high numbers on the Mississippi and at Saylorville. Great Blue Herons (114) were reported in fair numbers. Sandhill Cranes (391) were in record numbers with the majority at Clinton. Killdeer (58) counted well, but Wilson's Snipes (12) and Belted Kingfishers (127) were just average.

Ring-billed Gulls (77,747) were in record numbers, but Herring Gulls (1,980) were somewhat off their average. Iceland Gulls (11) were on four counts with 5 at Saylorville. Glaucous Gulls (9) were at near record numbers. Lesser Black-backed Gulls (7) were on three counts.

Northern Bobwhites (77) were only on six counts and of those, 50 birds were at Ida County alone. Wild Turkeys (2,189) were at their average, but Ring-necked Pheasants (852) fell below theirs. Gray Partridge (26) were on

five counts and NW Clayton County had the high. Eurasian Collared-Doves (867) rebounded to average numbers. Rock Pigeons (10,282) and Mourning Doves (2,939) were only in fair numbers.

Bald Eagles (3,754) were in average numbers, but Golden Eagles (16) set a record high. Four were at SE Clayton County. Northern Harriers (199) also established a record high. Cooper's Hawks (134) had one of their best counts. Sharp-shinned Hawks (67) counts were at their average. Red-shouldered Hawks (24) had a fine showing across ten counts. Seven were at Cedar Falls-Waterloo and five were at Bremer County. Red-tailed Hawks (2,005) were found in average numbers. Rough-legged Hawks (342) set a new high. American Kestrels (726) had their best count in fifteen. Merlins (26) had a good count, yet well below returns of the previous four that averaged over 33 birds. Peregrine Falcons (8) were seen on five Mississippi River counts.

Eastern Screech-Owls (115) were found in below-average numbers, but Great Horned Owls (276) had one of their better counts. Barred Owls (317) were in very high numbers. Long-eared Owls (69) and Short-eared Owls (32) were both twice their average. Northern Saw-whet Owls (34) were discovered in record numbers.

Red-headed Woodpecker (334) counts fluctuate quite a bit from year to year. They were up fifty percent from last year, but still well short of their average. Red-bellied Woodpeckers (2,788) numbers are quite steady year to year with their average trending upwards. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers (62) also fluctuate, but this was their best year in eight. Downy Woodpeckers (3,345) were in record numbers again. Hairy Woodpeckers (865) also had a very good count. Northern Flickers (987), like sapsuckers, had their best count in eight. Pileated Woodpeckers (201) nearly tied their record.

Northern Shrikes (37) were below their average. Loggerhead Shrikes (2) were at Des Moines and at Union County. Blue Jays (4,906) numbers were typical while American Crows (75,222) were abundant.

Black-capped Chickadees (6,655) were in average numbers. Tufted Titmice (691) were somewhat below theirs. White-breasted Nuthatches (3,420) and Red-breasted Nuthatches (174) were in above average numbers. Brown Creepers (412) rebounded nicely from last season's sixteen-year low. Winter Wrens (91) average about 45 birds per count, and this count crushed the previous record of fifty-four. Carolina Wrens (88) numbers are known to cycle. The previous winter may have been difficult for them as they dropped dramatically from the 282 birds on last year's count. Perhaps surprising, Lamoni was the only Southern Third count to report any. Golden-crowned Kinglets (160) were abundant as they had their best count in fifteen. Ruby-crowned Kinglets (19) broke the high of seventeen set two years ago. They had averaged just six birds over the previous ten counts.

After eleven-year lows, Eastern Bluebirds (1,008) rebounded to nearly average numbers and American Robins (9,191) soared to nearly double theirs. Hermit Thrushes (93) had one of their very best counts. Northern Mockingbirds (5) were about average. Green Island reported two. Cedar Waxwings (3,280)

were again only in fair numbers. Yellow-rumped Warblers (289) were double their average. Unfortunately, European Starlings (110,472) established a new high. Davenport reported over 35,000.

Four Eastern Towhees were reported from three counts. A Spotted Towhee was at De Soto NWR and another count week bird was at Lamoni. Although reported on every count, American Tree Sparrows (8,741) were near all-time lows. Fox Sparrows (92), however, set a new high. Song Sparrows (504) totals were somewhat low. Swamp Sparrows (197) were in average numbers on eastern counts, but unreported in the Southern Third. Field Sparrows (9) were on four counts. A lone Savannah Sparrow was at North Linn. Lincoln's Sparrows (8) were on three Mississippi River and two Missouri River counts. Except for the northwest, White-throated Sparrows (974) and White-crowned Sparrows (261) had good showings. Harris's Sparrows (149) were down somewhat with a southwestern distribution. Dark-eyed Juncos (21,718) were in typical numbers.

Horned Lark (3,179) numbers were fair, but Lapland Longspurs (1,277) and Snow Buntings (391) were about half their averages. Lack of snow may have made finding these birds more difficult. Meadowlark (113) numbers were quite low, but Red-winged Blackbirds (152,392) had their highest count in over thirty years. Brown-headed Cowbirds (6,495) and Common Grackles (19,266) were both found in record numbers. Rusty Blackbirds (315) also had a high count. Brewer's Blackbirds (55) were on six counts with forty-six birds at Taylor County.

House Sparrows (26,317) had a typical count. Eurasian Tree Sparrows (3,060) were in high numbers. They were reported north to NW Clayton County and westward to Bremer County, Ames, and Red Rock. Ames again reported a House Sparrow x Eurasian Tree Sparrow. House Finches (4,596) were in very high numbers. Purple Finches (706) were also widespread and plentiful. Common Redpolls (7) had yet to make their 2022 winter irruption and were on just six counts. Two Red Crossbills were at Buchanan County. White-winged Crossbills (12) were all at Green Island. Pine Siskins (180) were at a four-year low, but American Goldfinch (4,447) and Northern Cardinal (6,526) numbers were very typical.

## NOTABLE MISSES

Most notable was the complete absence of any scoters on the count. Over the last thirty years that had occurred just three times, although two of those years were in the last seven. Interesting were the birds that have now been found often enough to become notable misses: Turkey Vulture (reported on 8 of last 10 counts), White winged Scoter (7 of last 10), Surf Scoter, Prairie Falcon, Yellow-headed Blackbird (6 of last 10), Black Scoter, Marsh Wren, Vesper Sparrow (5 of last 10).

## UNCOMMON SPECIES

The most improbable find of the count was a Smith's Longspur at Clinton,



but on the Illinois side. It was observed on the ground and in the air. This species hadn't been reported on an Iowa count since 1992. An Eastern Phoebe and an American Pipit were also at Clinton. Single Blue-winged Teal were reported from Green Island and Humboldt County. Horned Grebes were at Clinton, Muscatine, and Burlington. Two Virginia Rails and a Chipping Sparrow were on that stormy 72-degree day at Princeton. Single Franklin's Gulls were reported from Spirit Lake and Lamoni. A Common Loon was at Union County. A Northern Goshawk was at Canton, SD on the Iowa side. Snowy Owls were at Yellow River, Bremer County, and Jamaica. A Bohemian Waxwing was at Worth County. That species hadn't been reported since the 2008 count. Single Gray Catbirds were found at Davenport, Burlington, and Ida County. A count week bird was also at Ames. A Brown Thrasher was at Green Island. A Townsend's Solitaire was at SE Clayton County. Lastly, an Orange-crowned Warbler was at Cedar Rapids.

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Table 1. Site Data for 2021–2022 Christmas Bird Counts

Location	Date	Total Species	Total Birds	Obs	Field Pts	Field Hr	Miles Car
MISSISSIPPI RIVER							
1. Yellow River Forest	44550	56	3892	9	6	31.3	310.3
2. SE Clayton County	44565	78	8006	13	7	46.75	447
3. Dubuque	44563	53	4276	6	6	25.5	119
4. Green Island	44547	93	7751	25	8	76	439
5. Clinton	44544	90	40142	12	5	44.75	318
6. Princeton	44545	65	4752	14	7	52.25	388*
7. Davenport	44549	97	129394	32	12	83	586
8. Andalusia	44554	82	15368	12	4	31	230
9. Muscatine	44553	78	13466	18	5	43.5	374
10. W Mercer County	44552	80	13211	12	5	42	315
11. Burlington	44548	89	9290	16	8	54	46
12. Keokuk	44550	88	87549	9	6	46.5	438
MISSOURI RIVER							
13. Westfield	44546	42	5933	16	8	na	285
14. Sioux City	44548	58	6793	24	11	58	415
15. De Soto NWR	44548	75	121400	34	17	90.9	327
16. Omaha	44549	75	10813	30	10	46.5	131
NORTHERN THIRD							
17. NW Clayton County	44564	68	6786	10	5	41	401
18. Decorah	44548	48	5000	28	10	53	450
19. Bremer County	44548	54	7323	12	8	70	604
20. Worth County	44561	45	1881	7	3	23	314
21. Mason City	44548	45	9418	12	7	50.75	416.2
22. Union Slough NWR	44565	32	1416	12	7	40	427
23. Spirit Lake	44548	54	24912	10	6	42	500
24. Humboldt County	44550	34	2123	4	3	22.5	221.6
25. Cherokee	44553	40	3452	5	2	7	170
26. Canton	409805	44	1890	12	5	36.6	301
MIDDLE THIRD							
27. Lost Nation	44546	55	3193	13	5	41.75	423
28. North Linn	44559	55	8111	7	5	32	342
29. Cedar Rapids	44548	69	9387	12	6	55	265
30. Iowa City	44549	76	32612	47	16	91	52
31. Amana	44557	49	3510	10	5	32	60
32. Buchanan County	44555	61	4297	4	2	19.75	220
33. Cedar Falls-Waterloo	44549	62	21377	16	11	66	750
34. Eldora-Union	44553	38	2735	9	3	19.5	133
35. Grinnell	44549	29	1318	3	2	14	66
36. Ames	44548	74	28050	32	15	104	401
37. Saylorville Reservoir	44549	90	51583	27	11	72	501
38. Des Moines	44556	75	120391	20	15	66	172
39. Neal Smith NWR	44565	52	3872	14	8	22.3	224
40. SE Webster County	44548	47	9666	18	5	na	250
41. Boone County	44561	61	6956	34	10	60	83
42. Jamaica	44546	61	13400	12	8	47.5	272.2
43. Dallas County	44548	54	3059	29	12	54	385
44. Dunbar Slough	44563	34	1298	4	na	10	127
45. Carroll County	44552	45	3326	6	2	10.4	94.8
46. Sac County	44563	28	908	4	3	12	97
47. Ida County	44563	57	4755	10	6	14	337
SOUTHERN THIRD							
48. Louisa Y	44546	56	5014	17	7	46.5	368
49. Red Rock Reservoir	44548	69	26314	15	9	43	273
50. Rathbun Reservoir	44547	65	6908	20	8	52	2.5
51. Lamon	44549	73	11879	7	3	28	340
52. NE Madison County	44546	50	4554	15	10	42	31
53. Union County	44553	68	15088	2	1	10	122
54. Taylor County	44561	39	2233	3	1	8	68
55. Cass County	44549	32	1286	8	3	11.5	142
TOTALS			953317				

\*includes 14 miles by boat

Miles Ft	Owling Hr	Owling Mi	Feeder Pt	Feeder Hr	Temp L	Temp H	Snow Depth	Wind
9.9	3.5	23	0	0	15	36	0	var. 5-17
3.5	3.75	14	2	4	19	35	3	SW 5-20
5	2	3	2	1	2	5	5	NW 5-10
12.7	3	19	1	2.5	19	34	0	N 0-9
5.75	3.75	42	1	0.75	33	48	0	SE 5-10
17.25	9.25	71	0	0	58	72	0	SW 15-35
32.5	16.25	107	1	1.5	18	34	0	SW 0-10
3.5	7	57	0	0	42	62	0	S 5-15
16.75	5.25	29	7	14	32	50	0	SW 0-15
7.75	7.25	52	0	0	18	38	0	SW 5-15
295	4	4	3	14	30	35	0	NW 8-15
15.5	2	11	0	0	24	44	0	SW 0-15
9	1.5	0.5	2	4	18	32	0	NNW 10-20
23	3	3	5	5	19	31	0	S 5-25
36.5	1	0	2	2	20	23	0	NW 10-26
40.39	5	1	na	15	15	30	0	NW 0-15
4	3.5	20	4	10	-2	22	2	S 5-10
23.75	1.5	26.5	8	8	22	28	2	NW 0-14
16	0	0	0	0	22	28	0	NW 5-10
9.5	0	0	0	0	16	27	2	N 9-16
20.5	0	0	2	1.5	16	30	0	NW 10-14
10.25	1	1.5	0	0	20	39	4	N 12-30
12	4	2	6	11	15	23	1	NW 6-13
4	2.5	29	2	5	13	29	0	N 0-25
0	0	0	0	0	22	46	0	ESE 0-10
11.2	1.5	1.8	1	1	-7	22	4	SW 0-12
9.75	3.75	28	0	0	31	37	0	SE 6-13
3.5	2.75	33	0	0	1	13	3	NW 11
46.9	2	12	2	8	28	35	0	NW 12
521	3	20	14	44	14	28	0	S 0-16
16	6	25	0	0	35	37	0	W 15
5.5	1.5	2	0	0	34	47	0	S 5-15
38.25	1	1	3	5	21	29	0	N 10-15
5.5	0.5	9	0	0	29	44	0	S 10-15
5	4	3	1	8	21	35	0	SW 5-15
40.5	3	13	7	17	21	28	0	NW 6-27
36.75	5.75	57	0	0	22	34	0	S 10-20
46	0	0	2	4	23	45	0	E 2-16
9.85	4.5	63.4	2	2.5	29	40	5	S 12-28
1	1	5	1	5	18	26	1	var. 5-10
14.5	0	0	5	7.5	11	29	0	E 2-21
17.7	2	14	2	2	27	41	0	W 0-20
22	0	0	4	3	26	27	0	NW 5-20
na	2	18	na	na	na	na	na	na
3.9	2.1	31.3	2	3	16	46	0	S 6-23
2.5	0	0	5	na	-8	18	0	NW 0-13
13	1	2	1	2	na	7	0	calm
17	2.25	26	0	0	32	39	0	E 6-13
22.65	0.5	1.5	0	0	21	34	0	NW 8-20
599	3.25	26	8	22	25	37	0	NE 9-12
9	0	0	0	0	21	37	0	SSW 8-12
11	0	0	0	0	26	41	0	W 10-20
3	0.5	3	0	0	16	45	0	SW 5-17
0	0	0	0	0	32	36	0.5	NE 3-12
5.25	0	0	0	0	12	32	0	S 5-14

Table 2a. Christmas Bird Count Data, 2020–2021

Location	Gr											
	Sn Go	Ro Go	W-f Go	Cack Go	Ca Go	Tr Sw	Tu Sw	Wo Du	No Sh	Ga	Am Wi	Ma
MISSISSIPPI RIVER												
1. Yellow River Forest					49			1				105
2. SE Clayton County					52	53	3					17
3. Dubuque				2	674	117	138		6	33		712
4. Green Island	1			4	1337	62	9	2			1	429
5. Clinton			40		2076	130	6149	1	11	88	6	1676
6. Princeton					811	54						41
7. Davenport			351	315	10355	2		10	15	21	2	1713
8. Andalusia	1		86		752	4				3		80
9. Muscatine	1			2	1330	1						159
10. W Mercer County			14		930	7	7		6	2		181
11. Burlington	4		8	100	2670	188		2	1	28		301
12. Keokuk	1			5	3774	135		1	883	1165	46	2231
Subtotals	8	0	499	428	24810	753	6306	17	922	1340	55	7645
MISSOURI RIVER												
13. Westfield	173	3	28	57	4656							20
14. Sioux City	4	1		20	1161					1	1	727
15. De Soto NWR	83706	4	10352	143	9428	49			5	5	6	7900
16. Omaha	374		7	24	2109	12			1	40	1	69
Subtotals	84257	8	10387	244	17354	61	0	0	6	46	8	8716
NORTHERN THIRD												
17. NW Clayton County				3	594							3
18. Decorah					1376		2					86
19. Bremer County	1			3	4516	214					1	9
20. Worth County					505	75						5
21. Mason City				46	4271	439					1	717
22. Union Slough NWR					20							170
23. Spirit Lake	5	1	6	181	20127	71				1	2	1239
24. Humboldt County				7	665							64
25. Cherokee	1		4		1364	7						50
26. Canton												
Subtotals	7	1	10	240	33418	826	2	0	0	1	4	2343
MIDDLE THIRD												
27. Lost Nation					159	61			1			14
28. North Linn				2	2337							37
29. Cedar Rapids			6	7	1894	46						685
30. Iowa City				17	4462				1	4	4	1055
31. Amana			7		1000	375				3		1000
32. Buchanan County	2			16	1455							6
33. Cedar Falls-Waterloo	1			6	7156	283	2		1			810
34. Eldora-Union				8	1519							9
35. Grinnell					470							85
36. Ames	1	1	63	19	7761	40	cw		1			399
37. Saylorville Reservoir	1		41	60	5354	5		1	46	53	4	3364
38. Des Moines	7		2	27	5988	15	1		1	31	3	771
39. Neal Smith NWR					31	cw						30
40. SE Webster County			8	10	6243	41				1		100
41. Boone County					284	70						6
42. Jamaica	552	1	28	33	8138	71			4	67	11	2302
43. Dallas County					682	17						
44. Dunbar Slough												
45. Carroll County			32	47	2000	26		3				263
46. Sac County					350	68						
47. Ida County	1			14	1560	16						92
Subtotals	565	2	187	266	58843	1134	3	4	55	159	22	11028
SOUTHERN THIRD												
48. Louisa Y	13		24	1	1148	60						51
49. Red Rock Reservoir	1				578	27						168
50. Rathbun Reservoir	1900		50	3	1009				18	10		287
51. Lamoni	1		2	2	4322	6				8	2	85
52. NE Madison County	45			5	1035	5						90
53. Union County	5		122	204	7189	11			8	23	3	1504
54. Taylor County	1				750							3
55. Cass County	1				500	70						
Subtotals	1967	0	198	215	16531	179	0	0	26	41	5	2188
TOTALS	86804	11	11281	1393	150956	2953	6311	21	1009	1587	94	31920



33	81	314	25184	109	3191	108	4026	1470	14725	323	9726	23	3792	77
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Location	Wi Tu	Gr Pa	Ri Ne Ph	P-b Gr	Ro Pi	Eu Co Do	Mo Do	Am Co	Ki	Wi Sn	Ri Bi Gu	He Gu
MISSISSIPPI RIVER												
1. Yellow River Forest	2				393	11	23				882	
2. SE Clayton County	343		12		315	10	111					
3. Dubuque	26				34		35					
4. Green Island	41		1	1	252		100	71		1	238	11
5. Clinton	23			1	249	38	204	145	1		1086	42
6. Princeton	29		6		213	10	107				157	1
7. Davenport	25			3	381	2	306		2		3811	49
8. Andalusia	9		4		161	55	114				456	6
9. Muscatine	23		9		43		180		1		133	1
10. W Mercer County	24		1		74	4	43		7	1	41	6
11. Burlington	12		2		297	8	65			1	582	5
12. Keokuk					284	16	102	444	38	8	1494	22
Subtotals	557	0	35	5	2696	154	1390	660	49	11	8880	143
MISSOURI RIVER												
13. Westfield	49		7		54		5					
14. Sioux City	256		3		405	27						
15. De Soto NWR	127		9		120	1	21	9	6		92	
16. Omaha	34		1	2	174	19	24	22			612	3
Subtotals	466	0	20	2	753	47	50	31	6	0	704	3
NORTHERN THIRD												
17. NW Clayton County	153	10	34		285	7	83					
18. Decorah	49		26		210		45		1			
19. Bremer County	21		19		176	10	28					
20. Worth County	51		35		252		7					
21. Mason City	178		4		380		6					
22. Union Slough NWR	17		30		129	3						
23. Spirit Lake	36		11		32	5		340			142	2
24. Humboldt County			15		93	7						
25. Cherokee	3		32		184	11	49					
26. Canton			7		167	111	18					
Subtotals	508	10	213	0	1908	154	236	340	1	0	142	2
MIDDLE THIRD												
27. Lost Nation	66		6		54		77					
28. North Linn	36		20		122	66	154					
29. Cedar Rapids	39	1			537	3	94		1		771	5
30. Iowa City	3		4		195	2	145				1304	2
31. Amana	15		3		80	1	25				1	
32. Buchanan County	14		9		184	52	68					
33. Cedar Falls-Waterloo	126	7	13		357	5	52	2			4	
34. Eldora-Union	5		3		64	16	3					
35. Grinnell			1		55	2	5					
36. Ames	15	5	100		357	30	93	1			3	
37. Saylorville Reservoir	40		11		887	86	40	14	1		30000	710
38. Des Moines	10		1		514		165	32			18292	688
39. Neal Smith NWR	47		37		67	22	88					
40. SE Webster County			2		212	10	2					
41. Boone County	80		19		295	21	2					
42. Jamaica	9		6		97	22	1	8				
43. Dallas County	25		38		57		3					
44. Dunbar Slough			30		80	55	4					
45. Carroll County	17		5		6	25	75					
46. Sac County			23		37		1					
47. Ida County	1	3	216		169	24	1					
Subtotals	548	16	547	0	4426	442	1098	57	2	0	50375	1405
SOUTHERN THIRD												
48. Louisa Y	4		5		23	2	76			1	15	
49. Red Rock Reservoir	7		24		19	34	12				17171	421
50. Rathbun Reservoir	15		3	1	26		5				460	6
51. Lamoni	32				236	26	44					
52. NE Madison County	40		1		170	2	2					
53. Union County	4		4		11	1						
54. Taylor County	5				14	2	25					
55. Cass County	3					3	1					
Subtotals	110	0	37	1	499	70	165	0	0	1	17646	427
TOTALS	2189	26	852	8	10282	867	2939	1088	58	12	77747	1980

Table 2b. Christmas Bird Count Data, 2020–2021

Ic Gu	Gl Gu	D-c Co	Am Wh Pe	Gr Bl He	Go Ea	No Ha	Sh Sh Ha	Co Ha	ac sp	Ba Ea	Re Sh Ha	Re Ta Ha	Ro Le Ha	Ea Sc Ow
						1		3		98	1	52	2	2
					4	1	4	3		122	2	61	30	9
						1	1			46		15	1	1
		1		1	2	15	1	6		282		97	9	10
1		21		3		5	2			122		58		2
			1	28		1	2			67		20		7
	1	6	101	29		1	5	12		147	3	58	1	5
			68	4			1	5		59	2	25	2	7
			180	1		1	4	5		56	1	57	2	2
			67	2			1	2		109		51	3	7
			286	15		6	1	4		54		25	2	6
			76	16		5	1	5		245	1	50		17
1	1	28	779	99	6	36	21	47	0	1407	10	569	52	75
					1	3	2			10		24	13	2
								2		13		38	9	1
		1				13	5	2		53		58	16	1
		1	8			1	2	1		36		63		
0	0	2	8	0	1	17	9	5	0	112	0	183	38	4
						3	6	2		101		41	32	3
						2	2	1	6	128		48	17	
							13	1	2	80	5	23	4	
							1	1		9		11	5	
							3		1	52		20	1	
					1	6				77		14	20	
								2		15		11	4	1
							2	1	2	25		12		
							1			31		32	9	
							1	1		27		36	29	1
0	0	0	0	0	6	35	5	15	0	545	5	248	121	5
						9	1	2		59		24	1	5
	1			1		8	2	3		131	1	33	18	
										54		42	2	1
		1				5		8	2	148		82	3	2
						3			1	45		28	4	
						1		3		30		34	3	2
						1	1	4		73	7	42	4	
						2	1	3		30		25	6	
							1			10		15	1	
			cw			7	5	8		64		95	1	2
5	3	1	51	1		10	1	4	1	188		66	2	1
2	2	1	480	11				8		104		33		
						4		3		39		27	5	
						1	1	1	2	18		14	3	
						4	2	4		18		25	1	8
					1	1	2	1		58		17	1	
						4	3	2		33		25	3	
						3	1	3		10		21	6	1
						cw				15		16	cw	4
						1				15		20		cw
							1	1		25		54	13	2
7	6	3	531	13	1	64	22	58	6	1167	8	738	77	28
						4	1	1		114		34	1	
3	2	1	7			5	2	3		161	1	38	3	1
		3	29	2		6	3	1		61		33	8	
			1			1	20	2		82		55	27	1
					1	1	1	3	1	38		57	6	
						8		1		28		27	5	1
						3	1			23		9	4	
										16		14		
3	2	4	37	2	2	47	10	9	1	523	1	267	54	3
11	9	37	1355	114	16	199	67	134	7	3754	24	2005	342	115

Location	Gr Ho Ow	Ba Ow	Lo Ea Ow	Sh Ea Ow	No S-w Ow	Be Ki	Re He Wo	Re Be Wo	Ye Be Sa	Do Wo	Ha Wo	No FI
MISSISSIPPI RIVER												
1. Yellow River Forest	1	2				3	19	28	1	27	11	2
2. SE Clayton County	11	17	2	1	2	9	7	89	2	57	15	6
3. Dubuque	2	1				4	1	33		26	11	1
4. Green Island	19	16	39	12	8	5	7	110	10	144	32	38
5. Clinton	2	6	8			6	5	95	5	95	31	38
6. Princeton	8	10	1			5	11	58	1	47	23	29
7. Davenport	23	38			2	9	15	144	7	207	33	29
8. Andalusia	20	35	2	4	4	3	46	81	4	82	24	29
9. Muscatine	5	17			1	5	17	73	2	85	37	35
10. W Mercer County	13	8	2		3		10	62	6	85	16	43
11. Burlington	2	6		1		4	26	64	2	58	9	22
12. Keokuk	5	1				9	25	82	3	77	12	34
Subtotals	111	157	54	18	20	62	189	919	43	990	254	306
MISSOURI RIVER												
13. Westfield	1							23		13	4	10
14. Sioux City	1					1		36	1	87	13	18
15. De Soto NWR	3	4				2	10	137	2	163	18	87
16. Omaha	1	7					1	127		100	10	64
Subtotals	6	11	0	0	0	3	11	323	3	363	45	179
NORTHERN THIRD												
17. NW Clayton County	27	27		3	2	3	2	57	1	70	26	4
18. Decorah		4			1	8	4	79	1	60	30	2
19. Bremer County	2	1		1		1	2	18		34	9	1
20. Worth County	3		1					6		11	5	
21. Mason City	3				1	1		18		57	18	2
22. Union Slough NWR	1	2		2				3		10	6	
23. Spirit Lake	1							10		29	8	
24. Humboldt County	6	3				2		15		25	7	
25. Cherokee	1							6		5	1	4
26. Canton	5	2	1		2	1		25		33	15	11
Subtotals	49	39	2	6	6	16	8	237	2	334	125	24
MIDDLE THIRD												
27. Lost Nation	4	2			1	1	26	26	1	52	10	9
28. North Linn	3	3	2			2	8	44	1	59	14	2
29. Cedar Rapids	6	6				7	5	60		113	29	5
30. Iowa City	7	6		1	1	3	11	148	4	170	37	35
31. Amana	6	2				1	10	22		24	2	3
32. Buchanan County	5	4	1		1	1	5	33		30	14	1
33. Cedar Falls-Waterloo	2	6				4		56		85	19	6
34. Eldora-Union	2					2		22		16	4	
35. Grinnell	2	2						6		12	1	1
36. Ames	5	11			cw	1		149	1	192	48	34
37. Saylorville Reservoir	12	19			2		1	118	2	132	31	79
38. Des Moines	6	4				9		97		181	21	50
39. Neal Smith NWR	2	2		2			1	42		50	12	15
40. SE Webster County		3				1	1	16		34	11	1
41. Boone County	11	13				2	4	147		185	82	25
42. Jamaica	2	cw				1		21		21	3	4
43. Dallas County	4	1				2		40		38	21	19
44. Dunbar Slough	8	8		2		1		13		10	2	1
45. Carroll County	3	3				1		15		20	8	8
46. Sac County	cw	cw						5		11	3	
47. Ida County	1	1	1		3			8		12	2	9
Subtotals	91	96	4	5	8	39	72	1088	9	1447	374	307
SOUTHERN THIRD												
48. Louisa Y	3	3	2				24	37		21	3	13
49. Red Rock Reservoir	2	2				3	9	79	3	67	23	37
50. Rathbun Reservoir	3	4					11	21		31	7	34
51. Lamoni	8	2		1		1	6	33	1	30	26	37
52. NE Madison County		1					1	34		34	2	18
53. Union County	1	2	7	2		2	1	8	1	15	1	12
54. Taylor County						1	2	6		6		16
55. Cass County	2							3		7	4	4
Subtotals	19	14	9	3	0	7	54	221	5	211	66	171
TOTALS	276	317	69	32	34	127	334	2788	62	3345	864	987



Table 2c. Christmas Bird Count Data, 2020–2021

Pi Wo	Am Ke	Me	Pe Fa	No Sh	Bl Ja	Am Cr	Bl Ca Ch	Tu Ti	Ho La	Ru Cr Ki	Go Cr Ki	Ce Wa	Re Br Nu	Wh Br Nu
8	22	1			47	161	85	10			1	23	7	42
3	25			4	145	361	189	18	346	1	4	36		149
	6				41	36	50	10	137				2	31
23	38	1		4	234	366	235	30	22	1	19	81	3	148
5	41		1		164	562	145	19	4	4	16	103	11	101
7	41				30	25	99	21	2		13	33	3	28
18	32	1	3	1	164	145	499	50	2	2	9	34	12	264
12	17				110	175	166	35	17	1	15	94	7	76
11	41		2		123	224	214	33	7	2	5	15	8	119
5	46			1	121	77	180	39	8		5	96	1	81
4	33	1	1		155	150	87	34	54		8	78	9	60
7	30		1		382	43829	162	77	8	5	8	245	13	69
103	372	4	8	10	1716	46111	2111	376	607	16	103	838	76	1168
	3			1	25	32	35					22		44
	4	1			45	44	133				1	78	3	54
2	17	1			133	97	185	15			11	100	5	163
6	9			1	43	57	195	18	30			83	2	166
8	33	2	0	2	246	230	548	33	30	0	12	283	10	427
5	8	1		3	244	177	264	7	338		4	41	4	143
6	16	1		2	173	329	183	11				257	11	61
4	9			3	63	306	95		2					31
2	1			1	36	139	30		18			30	2	9
1	1	cw		1	101	1310	142							39
	1				21	142	25		87					15
	2	2		1	15	90	78		7			3	4	17
	1				28	23	36		23				2	28
	3				29	190	9		5			27		1
	2	1		1	58	65	47		40		5	101		24
18	44	5	0	12	768	2771	909	18	520	0	9	459	23	368
1	13				83	68	33	2		1	3	9	1	39
2	14	1			116	140	57		536			16		42
2	15			1	69	705	274	32	1	1	1	81	2	95
14	21	1		1	157	352	310	89		1	1	130	1	165
1	9				30	40	30	12				35	2	13
4	8	1		1	107	115	104	1	6		4	32	3	53
7	10			1	79	9354	223		1		1	31	3	81
1	9				37	75	31					3		27
	4				7	29	5							19
1	9	1		cw	140	11300	414		128		4	221	21	215
1	10	1		1	110	144	254	14	39		3	191		127
9	5	5			110	601	335	17			3	32	2	170
	8	1		3	75	60	56		349				1	42
3	1	1			15	39	39		1				3	35
12	5				97	306	266	37	62		1	109	5	159
	6				52	65	35		605			16		45
2	3			2	56	215	109	6	46		2	20	5	69
1		2			27	45	13		55					15
	3			1	17	40	12					56		18
	1				19	27	23					10		9
	1			1	159	161	5		91			1	2	17
61	155	14	0	12	1562	23881	2628	210	1920	3	23	993	51	1455
	19				77	76	37	14				26		25
4	18				63	136	154	13	1		2	192		72
1	17				124	170	68	7				146	3	28
5	36	1		1	203	1227	91	14	9		3	287	9	25
	7				55	120	77	4	24			31		55
1	15				49	410	19		38		8	18	2	9
	6				23	69	5	2	12			7		6
	4				20	21	8		18					27
11	122	1	0	1	614	2229	459	54	102	0	13	707	14	247
201	726	26	8	37	4906	75222	6655	691	3179	19	160	3280	174	3665

Location	Br Cr	Wi Wr	Ca Wr	Gr Ca	No Mo	Eu St	Ea Bl	He Th	Am Ro	Ho Sp	Eu Tr Sp	Ho Fi
MISSISSIPPI RIVER												
1. Yellow River Forest	1	1				626	14			473		31
2. SE Clayton County	3	1	1			882	45	1	3	1608	6	89
3. Dubuque	2					69	4			234		124
4. Green Island	34	20	3		2	432	59	16	118	387	12	47
5. Clinton	22	8	8		1	2553	36	11	22	692	124	128
6. Princeton	17	2				1695		2	7	381	56	35
7. Davenport	41	5	16	1		35402	13	10	351	1271	520	252
8. Andalusia	40	7	12			1785	21	18	68	945	445	118
9. Muscatine	18	1	3			2663	10	1	38	714	277	114
10. W Mercer County	14	5	3			7163	13	17	16	321	339	54
11. Burlington	7	3	1	1		1161	10	3	213	501	311	71
12. Keokuk	13	2	5			2971	3	7	65	335	229	96
Subtotals	212	55	52	2	3	57402	228	86	901	7862	2319	1159
MISSOURI RIVER												
13. Westfield						210	6		7	125		1
14. Sioux City	4	1	2			1964	20	1	175	335		181
15. De Soto NWR	19	1	4			633	55		1156	465		76
16. Omaha	12	1	2			3317	54		765	247		88
Subtotals	35	3	8	0	0	6124	135	1	2103	1172	0	346
NORTHERN THIRD												
17. NW Clayton County	7	1	3			482	19	1	3	880	1	74
18. Decorah	2	cw				434	3		2	395		95
19. Bremer County	2					355			1	725	2	39
20. Worth County	1					60			1	204		46
21. Mason City	5					297			1	663		193
22. Union Slough NWR						143				164		8
23. Spirit Lake	1					176				312		36
24. Humboldt County	6					342				411		133
25. Cherokee						884	2		99	186		19
26. Canton	5					261			33	534		32
Subtotals	29	1	3	0	0	3434	24	1	140	4474	3	675
MIDDLE THIRD												
27. Lost Nation	14	1				587		1	3	668	39	6
28. North Linn	2					679	3		3	1750	63	61
29. Cedar Rapids	10	6	3			1214	3		10	655	135	217
30. Iowa City	15	2	1			17471	48		5	755	59	247
31. Amana	3					200	5		1	150	65	8
32. Buchanan County	5		1			898	1		5	516	12	39
33. Cedar Falls-Waterloo	7	1				671				717		146
34. Eldora-Union	1					407				245	2	2
35. Grinnell						440				25		22
36. Ames	13	11	4	cw		2466	33		122	1262	2	596
37. Saylorville Reservoir	10	1	2			2337	89	2	164	385		212
38. Des Moines	18	4	10			3756	78		89	293		185
39. Neal Smith NWR						676	11		30	487	46	14
40. SE Webster County						2013	2			359		27
41. Boone County	5	5				1396	40		8	1394		89
42. Jamaica	3					460	5		76	228		38
43. Dallas County	3		1			312	3		202	208		63
44. Dunbar Slough						65	3			275		12
45. Carroll County	1					282				79		14
46. Sac County	1					1				85		26
47. Ida County	1	1		1		581			23	851	91	50
Subtotals	112	32	22	1	0	36912	324	3	741	11387	514	2074
SOUTHERN THIRD												
48. Louisa Y	2					831	3		6	489	223	20
49. Red Rock Reservoir	2					1459	40	1	33	230	1	35
50. Rathbun Reservoir	2					152	31	1	370	77		21
51. Lamoni	7		3		1	1153	112		859	287		161
52. NE Madison County	10					1405	79		25	309		44
53. Union County	1				1	1196	26		3464	17		56
54. Taylor County						83	4		535			5
55. Cass County						321	2		14	13		
Subtotals	24	0	3	0	2	6600	297	2	5306	1422	224	342
TOTALS	412	91	88	3	5	110472	1008	93	9191	26317	3060	4596

Table 2d. Christmas Bird Count Data, 2020–2021

Pu Fi	Co Re	Pi Si	Am Go	La Lo	Sn Bu	Fi Sp	Fo Sp	Am Tr Sp	Da Ey Ju	Wh Cr Sp	Ha Sp	Wh Th Sp	So Sp	Li Sp
1			67					19	172	7		1		
13		1	93	16	279		4	296	1600	34	1	9	17	1
			343	31			1	100	477	3		1	5	
210		1	108	2	1		3	476	581	13		16	20	
22			52	161	2			351	258			16	19	
3			38	2			1	130	133			8	6	
9		9	257	1			1	144	696	2		118	96	
13		10	75				3	141	353	2		57	25	
11		1	128				4	174	235	4		77	26	
78			30	4	1	4	3	201	451	20		24	53	2
21		6	140			2	1	213	553	17		35	22	
30			226	8	3		3	146	784			72	29	1
411	0	28	1557	225	286	6	24	2391	6293	102	1	434	318	4
			21					48	182				2	
	1	6	112					486	44	1	4	6		
14			236				21	441	1432	7	78	35	22	3
			112				1	291	11	31	30	7	8	1
14	1	6	481	0	0	0	22	1266	1669	39	112	48	32	4
7	2	5	33	9	33		1	220	1820	7	1	9	6	
8			154					117	478	3				
		4	18	2				237	177			1	2	
			2					118	144				1	
2	1		61					47	244					
			16	71				29	41					
14			14					56	210					
			6	1				42	54					
2			31	50				2	109				1	
24			13					15	92		1			
57	3	9	348	133	33	0	1	883	3369	10	2	10	10	0
6			8					124	608	1		13	7	
3	1		38	283	29		1	102	748			2	1	
9			129				2	161	729	2		85	30	
6		17	257				2	114	921	17		49	7	
			20					40	70	1		2	1	
4		60	13	10				64	188			3	3	
3			42		15			103	553			2	3	
2			7					21	90				1	
			20					11	47					
2		20	146		6		2	202	730	17	2	91	4	
17		3	94	30	13	2	4	304	750	19	3	42	25	
		25	318				2	203	408	1		87	17	
			35	45	6		2	427	742	5		8	11	
8			23					55	157					
6		3	305	104			1	275	708	6	8	21	7	
1			22	8			1	41	68			4		
6			54	39	2		1	115	361	13	5	3	2	
			1					360	150					
		7	30				2	91	49	1	5			
1		1	3					33	32					
1	1	1	52					91	249		1			
75	2	137	1617	519	71	2	20	2937	8358	83	24	412	119	0
2			28			1	1	35	122	1		10	4	
3			60	400	1		1	99	333			22	5	
8			42				2	127	352			15	3	
102	1		189	cw			7	429	427	4	2	12	9	
11			87				1	229	309		2	4	1	
3			22				13	112	179		3	7	3	
			8					230	218	22	3			
20			8					3	89					
149	1	0	444	400	1	1	25	1264	2029	27	10	70	25	0
706	7	180	4447	1277	391	9	92	8741	21718	261	149	974	504	8

Sw Sp	me sp	Re Wi Bl	Br He Co	Ru Bl	Br Bl	Co Gr	Ye Ru Wa	No Ca
		38	14					37
3		7	12	1	1	2	13	304
		cw						104
12		122	51				54	190
12		103	3	2			10	192
9		33	1					131
56		54809	5301	245	3	8661	6	389
20		3675	335	9	3	3601	9	191
10		167	32	20		4114	5	217
34		1105	300	7			20	194
6		31	11			30	4	158
9		281	11	2		120	44	391
171	0	60371	6071	286	7	16528	165	2498
								6
		123		4			1	77
1	54	28						239
		661					1	87
1	54	812	0	4	0	0	2	409
1		6	35				2	297
							10	61
2		1						42
		12		10				15
		3	1					62
		140						2
								7
	1							35
		2						6
							15	22
3	1	164	36	10	0	0	27	549
13		53				10		107
1							1	307
		25	4				1	199
1		1029		1		2002		388
			80			1		30
1		4	3			1	2	49
1								152
								33
	2							18
3	1	1	14	cw		2	2	304
1	1	307	6				3	260
		85000				500	1	234
1	14	25	12			2		127
		105	27		1			14
	2		1			1	5	196
		23						31
	9	15	5					72
								15
								14
		100						2
				11				22
22	29	86687	152	12	1	2519	15	2574
		856	205			125		89
		1505	5			2		101
		948					10	77
	15	898	2	3	1	36	54	84
		13	13				1	43
		90	2				15	57
	7	42	7		46			19
		6	2			56		26
0	22	4358	236	3	47	219	80	496
197	106	152392	6495	315	55	19266	289	6526



Table 3. Species reported on three or fewer Christmas Bird Counts, 2021–2022

Species	Counts
Mute Swan	Davenport (8)
Blue-winged Teal	Green Island (1), Humboldt County (1)
Mallard x Am.Black Duck	Saylorville (1), Union County (1)
Long-tailed Duck	Green Island (1), Burlington (1), Keokuk (1)
duck sp.	DeSoto NWR (419)
Horned Grebe	Clinton (1), Muscatine (1), Burlington (2)
Virginia Rail	Princeton (2)
Sandhill Crane	Clinton (384), Davenport (5), Andalusia (2)
Franklin's Gull	Spirit Lake (1), Lamoni (1)
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Saylorville (4), Des Moines (1), Red Rock (2)
gull sp.	Green Island (15), Neal Smith NWR (3)
Common Loon	Union County (1)
Northern Goshawk	Canton (1)
buteo sp.	DeSoto NWR(9) Boone County (1), Taylor County (3)
Snowy Owl	Yellow River (1), Bremer County (1), Jamaica (1)
woodpecker sp.	Neal Smith NWR (1)
Eastern Phoebe	Princeton (1)
Loggerhead Shrike	Des Moines (1), Union County (1)
Bohemian Waxwing	Worth County (1)
Townsend's Solitaire	SE Clayton County (1)
Brown Thrasher	Green Island (1)
House Sparrow x Eurasian Tree Sparrow	Ames (1)
American Pipit	Clinton (1)
Red Crossbill	Buchanan County (2)
White-winged Crossbill	Green Island (12)
Smith's Longspur	Clinton (1)
Chipping Sparrow	Princeton (1)
Savannah Sparrow	North Linn (1)
sparrow sp.	DeSoto NWR (9), Neal Smith NWR (9)
Spotted Towhee	DeSoto NWR (1), Lamoni (cw)
Eastern Towhee	Princeton (1), W. Mercer County (2), Cedar Rapids (1)
Eastern Meadowlark	Green Island (1), Andalusia (4)
Western Meadowlark	Andalusia (2)
Orange-crowned Warbler	Cedar Rapids (1)

## **In Memoriam: James P. Sandrock**

*Robert Cecil*

Long time Iowa birder, author, and IOU member James (Jim) Sandrock, 93, passed away on 6 June 2022 in Iowa City. Jim was known to many as a 40-year career professor of German at the University of Iowa and to others as having a special interest in the birds of southeastern Iowa, especially the Yellow-throated Warbler and Henslow's Sparrow. Both species were expanding their Iowa range. He was always helpful to birders seeking a Yellow-throated Warbler in the sycamores by his cabin along the Des Moines River in Van Buren County and was frequently encountered while birding Lacey-Keosauqua State Park.

Jim's contributions to the IOU were extensive and included co-editorship of *Iowa Bird Life* with Tom Kent and editing the first *Iowa Breeding Bird Atlas*. Along with his wife Jean Prior, he wrote *The Scientific Nomenclature of Birds in the Upper Midwest* published by the University of Iowa Press. Jim also contributed several articles and field notes to *Iowa Bird Life*.

Jim Sandrock was one of the pioneers of modern Iowa birding and birding publications and his contributions will serve Iowa birders and ornithological scholarship for years to come.

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## **2022 Spring Meeting at Swan Lake State Park, Carroll**

*Richard Sayles*

Swan Lake State Park near Carroll, Iowa was the site of this year's spring meeting April 29–May 1. Greene, Guthrie, and Carroll counties were filled with roving flocks of IOU members dodging raindrops and avoiding wicked winds for three days searching the skies for migrants, residents, and vagrants.

Swan Lake was the perfect place to register and preview the excellent birding this area has to offer. Before registration many birds were showing off including Common Loons, Franklin Gulls, and a wide assortment of waterfowl. It would have been a very good three days just birding and enjoying Swan Lake.

Friendships were renewed and field trips planned. Those field trips included assorted county parks, sheet water, and state lands, Black Hawk Lake, Dunbar Slough, Swan Lake State Park, and Whiterock Conservancy. Field trip leaders included John Bissell, Stan Bauman, Brandon Caswell, Diane Dentlinger, Keith Dyche, Doug Harr, Kevin Murphy, Eric Ollie, and Matt Wetrich.

After the Saturday morning field trips, we reunited at the Swan Lake State Park Nature Center for the afternoon. Excellent programs were given by Erik Murry on the Rough-legged Banding Program in Iowa, Brandon Caswell on magical warblering and birding areas in eastern Iowa, and Matt Wetrich on the wonders of Carroll County birding, both urban and rural.

The membership voted on the top three birds of the day: American Golden-Plover, Swainson's Hawk, and American Kestrel. Thirty-five species received votes out of 140 species viewed on Saturday. Many highlighted species of Saturday included Loggerhead Shrike, Sandhill Cranes, Godwits (Hudsonian and Marbled), Yellow-headed Blackbird, and Sora and Virginia Rails.

Anne Lacy of the International Crane Foundation gave an outstanding program on the Sandhill Cranes and Whooping Cranes.

We reconvened on Sunday morning and picked up another 16 new species to end with 155 for the weekend.

Personally, the last bird of the trip was the American Avocet as I was leaving the park Sunday afternoon.

Thank you to Matt Wetrich, the membership, speakers, Swan Lake and Western Iowa for an excellent weekend. It was great to see everyone again.

P.S. Dunbar Slough is worth the trip alone.

Attendees: Rebecca Bates, Will Bates, Sharon Bauer, John Bissell, Alan Brown, Carol Brown, Helen Brown, Anna Buckardt Thomas, Katie Byerly, Mark Carson, Shelley Carson, Brandon Caswell, Diane Crookham-Johnson, Kathryn Deetz, Diane Dentlinger, Karen Disbrow, Keith Dyche, Pip Fisher, Barb Fisher-Krueger, Daniel Galvez, Sheryl Galvez, Tim Garner, Ulrike Grimaldi, Douglas Harr, Paul Heimann, Paul Hertz, Karen Hinkle, Ann Johnson, Thomas Johnson, Joe Jungers, Karla Jungers, Robert Klaver, Anne Lacey, Betty Lucas, Tim Lucas, Francis Moore, Kevin Murphy, Eric Ollie, Don Poggensee, Abbie Portz, Mark Proescholdt, Colleen Radebaugh, Deb Rolfes, Mark Rolfes, Maria Rundquist, Rex Rundquist, Heather Sanders, Richard Sayles, Tom Schilke, Lee Schoenewe, Dana Siefer, Stuart Sparkman, Ed Thelen, Bill Thomas, Cecille Thompson, Dennis Thompson, Wendy Van-DeWalle, Karen Viste-Sparkman, and Hank Zaletel.

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# Iowa Ornithologists' Union Board Meeting Minutes

29 April 2022

The Iowa Ornithologists' Union board met at Swan Lake State Park in Carroll. Board members present included President Dennis Thompson, Vice President Richard Sayles, Secretary Katie Byerly, and board members Sharon Bauer, Betty Lucas, and Wendy VanDeWalle. Paul Hertzell was in attendance for the Records Committee. President Dennis Thompson called the meeting to order at 8 p.m. and presented the meeting agenda.

Sharon Bauer and Curt Nelson have completed their terms on the board. Anna Buckardt Thomas and Teresa Cummiskey have agreed to join the IOU Board.

**Treasurer's Report:** In Treasurer Tom Dougherty's absence, Dennis shared the review of the financials. Main points from the review include the following:

- Income is currently positive for the year for these reasons: no *Iowa Bird Life* expenses yet (four issues will total \$13,000), spring meeting speaker and food expenses are not yet paid, year-to-date membership is down 24 members compared to same time in 2021.
- Year-end loss is expected to be at least \$2,000 assuming four issues of *IBL* are published in 2022 and membership numbers don't improve.
- Dues received will increase by year-end as many members pay in December.
- Total assets are high due to unspent memorial funds (primarily from the Marilyn Irey Estate).
- A projected net loss for the year of \$2,000 will put total assets of about \$118,000 at year-end.

## OLD BUSINESS

**Zoom Presentations:** The board discussed whether to continue to offer Zoom presentations. The first presentation had 19 viewers online and the second presentation had 40 in attendance online. Dennis stated that speakers have been easy to find so far. Wendy's husband is available to present next month about wind towers and their effects on birds and bats. The board agreed that it is another way to add value to the IOU membership and they should continue to be offered. Dennis currently has been setting up the presentations with some technical help. He will ask the Events Committee to take over the Zoom presentations.

**Big Weekends:** The question was asked if the IOU should continue the County Big Weekends. There were many positive comments about holding them. It is an easy process to set them up online for members to report sightings. It was agreed to hold another Big Weekend in June 2022.



## NEW BUSINESS

**100 Year IOU Birthday:** Next year will mark IOU's 100th anniversary! Ann Johnson has contacted Denny with an idea for a guest speaker. This speaker may be available the first weekend in May but probably not after that date. Dennis suggested that a planning committee be formed to plan for the celebration. He also suggested that the spring meeting be held in central Iowa such as Des Moines or Iowa City to promote a larger attendance. The board discussed finding a birder in every county to help promote the anniversary in each county.

**Motus Tower:** Dennis presented the idea of the IOU sponsoring a Motus tower in Iowa. Many board members had questions about how the tower functions and the benefits of a tower. Currently, there are 7 Motus towers in Iowa mostly by rivers. Although a tower is not a usual infrastructural project the IOU would normally sponsor, it is a tool educators can use. It will also offer necessary information for conservation projects. One tower costs approximately \$4,000. These donated monies are separate from the project funds. Richard moved the IOU sponsor the installation of one Motus tower and work with the DNR on a proposed site. Wendy seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously to approve the motion to sponsor a Motus tower.

**Membership Renewals:** To date, IOU has 353 members with 15 new members this year. However, membership is twenty-four members less than last year. Denny shared a list of approximately 100 previous members who have yet to renew their membership. Each member present volunteered to contact 15 to 20 of the non-renewals to encourage and remind them to renew their IOU membership.

**Iowa Bird Life:** Dennis shared that IOU publishes four issues of *Iowa Bird Life* each year. One issue might be published without field report sightings due to delays in getting the Field Reports organized. Karen Viste-Sparkman has one more issue to publish and Jessie Ellis is taking over as the IOU editor. Diligent efforts have been made to bring the *IBL* issues up to date. Due to an increased number of sightings and data, publication of *IBL* is still delayed.

**Facebook Page:** The board discussed the IOU Facebook page and the lack of use. Its function is different from the popular Iowa Birding Facebook page. The current manager of our page is willing to hand over the manager position to someone else. The Iowa Birding page is open to public posts and sightings. The IOU page is limited to only managers to post and used for more educational information. No decisions were made.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Records:** Paul Hertzell reported that 63 bird records were submitted to the IOU in 2021 and reviewed by the committee. Fifty-seven were accepted. One new species was recorded (Swainson's Warbler), which brings Iowa's total to 431 species. Three records have been reviewed for the 2022 season. These sightings include Evening Grosbeak, Hoary Redpoll, and Ferruginous Hawk.

The committee has two sightings pending review: Eurasian Wigeon and Hoary Redpoll in March. Paul Skrade is scheduled to rotate off the committee after completing a six-year term. Betty Lucas agreed to fill this position.

**Library/Historical:** Hank Zaletel reported Carolyn Fischer from Mason City asked if IOU wants the bird sighting records of Jan Walters. She passed away in 2007. Jan kept meticulous notes and her records cover 30 years of birding in the Clear Lake/Mason City area. The committee is pursuing the idea of inputting this information into eBird. If not, these records will be kept at Iowa State University. They are looking for volunteers to input these thousands of sightings.

**Projects:** John Cecil's report was presented by Denny. They have a \$5,000 budget. There is a decrease in the number of applications for project funding. They do have five requests for funding for a total of \$3,200. These requests include a cowbird study, Barn Owl boxes, and a bird feeding station in Mitchell County. The committee will work on promoting more grant applications. The committee is seeking another member.

**Other Committees:** Three other committees have yet to submit reports. These are the Communication, Events, and Membership committees.

The IOU Board meeting ended at 9:15 p.m. with Wendy moving to adjourn and Sharon seconding.

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Byerly, secretary



*Red-tailed Hawk, Lake Red Rock, Marion, 12 February 2022. Photograph by Christopher Knisley, Colfax, IA.*

# Iowa Ornithologists' Union Business Meeting

30 April 2022

The Iowa Ornithologists' Union business meeting was held at Swan Lake State Park in Carroll. President Dennis Thompson called the meeting to order at 4 p.m. Attending were Vice President Dick Sayles, Secretary Katie Byerly, board members Sharon Bauer, Betty Lucas, Wendy VanDeWalle, and members of the organization.

**Treasurer's Report:** In Treasurer Tom Dougherty's absence, Dennis shared the review of the financials. Main points from the review include the following:

- Income is currently positive for the year for these reasons: no *Iowa Bird Life* expenses yet (four issues will total \$13,000), spring meeting speaker and food expenses are not yet paid, year-to-date membership is down 24 members compared to same time in 2021.
- Year-end loss is expected to be at least \$2,000 assuming four issues of *IBL* are published in 2022 and membership numbers don't improve.
- Dues received will increase by year-end as many members pay in December.
- Total assets are high due to unspent memorial funds (primarily from the Marilyn Irely Estate).
- A projected net loss for the year of \$2,000 will put total assets of about \$118,000 at year-end.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Membership:** Cecille Thompson reported our current membership at 353 members with 15 new members this year. However, membership is 24 less than last year.

**Publications:** Ann Johnson reported that the publication schedule for *Iowa Bird Life* has once again fallen behind primarily due to the volume of reports to be reviewed from eBird data. Members are encouraged to submit articles of interest for publication.

**Records:** Paul Hertzell said 63 records were submitted to the IOU in 2021 and reviewed by the committee. Fifty-seven were accepted. One new species (Swainson's Warbler) was recorded, which brings Iowa's total to 431 species. Paul Skrade is scheduled to rotate off the committee after completing a six-year term. Betty Lucas agreed to fill this position.

**Projects:** At Friday night's meeting, the board unanimously voted to approve funding for a MOTUS tower in Iowa. Currently there are 12 MOTUS towers in Iowa mostly by rivers. Although a tower is not a usual infrastructural

project the IOU would normally sponsor, it is a tool educators can use. It also will provide necessary information for conservation projects. One tower costs approximately \$4,000. These donated monies are separate from the project funds. Anna Buckardt Thomas presented an overview of how the towers operate. She will work with the DNR on locating a site.

The Projects Committee has a \$5,000 budget to use. There is a decrease in the number of applications for project funding. They do have five requests for funding for a total of \$3,200. These requests include a cowbird study, Barn Owl boxes, and a bird feeding station in Mitchell County. The committee will work on promoting the grant applications. The committee is seeking another member.

**Library/Historical:** Hank Zaletel reported Carolyn Fischer from Mason City has asked if IOU wants the sighting records of Jan Walters. Jan passed away in 2007. Jan kept meticulous notes and her records cover 30 years of birding in the Clear Lake/Mason City area. The committee is pursuing the idea of inputting this information into eBird. If not, these records will be kept at Iowa State University. They are looking for volunteers to input these thousands of sightings.

## NEW BUSINESS

Sharon Bauer and Curt Nelson have completed their terms on the board. Anna Buckardt Thomas and Teresa Cummiskey have been nominated to replace them as IOU board members. Stuart Sparkman moved to approve them, and Cecille Thompson seconded. The motion carried.

Doug Harr said there are only 100 Iowa Checklists left. He asked if more checklists should be printed or wait until after the July updates. The Iowa Young Birders often use the older checklists without problems. Many members asked about a PDF form that members can print (currently available on our website). Many birders still like to have the checklist in hand. It was decided that we would wait until the AOU changes are published in July before creating new checklists.

Katie Byerly moved to adjourn the meeting and Stuart Sparkman seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 4:59 p.m.

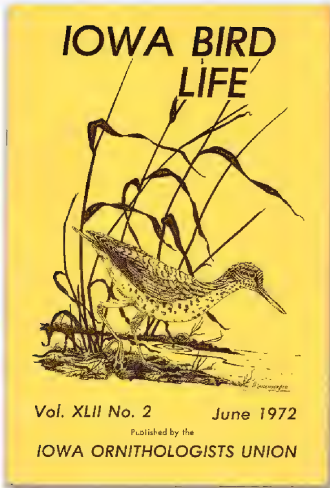
Respectfully submitted,

Katie Byerly, secretary



## Fifty Years Ago in *Iowa Bird Life*

James J. Dinsmore



The lead article in the June 1972 issue of *Iowa Bird Life* was the report on the May 1972 meeting, the organization's fiftieth annual meeting and celebrated as its Golden Anniversary. Among the 96 attendees, only one person who had attended the organization's inaugural meeting in 1923, Walter Rosene, Jr. of Gadsen, Alabama, was present. A total of 117 species was seen on Sunday's field trips and six more were found on Saturday for a weekend total of 123 including 22 species of warblers.

At the business meeting a revision of the organization's articles of incorporation, needed to maintain its status as non-profit organization, was approved. Officers elected were John Osness, President; Jim Rod, Vice President; Mary Lou Petersen, Secretary; and Antoinette Camarata, Treasurer, and four members of the Executive Council. The financial statement as of May 1972, showed a balance of \$2,817.

A full schedule of talks was presented including birding in Trinidad and Tobago by Peter Petersen on Friday evening, and Saturday programs on wildlife resources of Alaska's arctic slope by Robert Bartels, birding southeastern Iowa by Charles and Darlene Ayres, and a film on Sandhill Cranes along the Platte River in Nebraska by Jim Rod. The Saturday banquet talk was by Fred-eric Leopold on nesting biology of Wood Ducks.

The issue's other major article was on birding the Johnson County/Iowa City area by Fred Kent. He described birding opportunities at Coralville Reservoir, Lake Macbride and the nearby Macbride campus, the Iowa River valley near the Amanas, and Cone Marsh. The article included two maps and three aerial photos of those areas.

Highlights of the spring 1972 field reports included sightings of two Pacific Loons near Des Moines, a Eurasian Wigeon at Rock Creek Lake, a Black-billed Magpie in Fremont County, and a Lark Bunting near Shenandoah.

Among the short notes were reports of a King Eider in Emmet County, Eurasian Wigeon in Jasper County, and Brown Pelican in Muscatine County. An obituary for long-time Iowa Conservation Commission biologist/ecologist Paul Kline and several book reviews filled out the issue.

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*Bald Eagle, Red Rock Recreation Area, Marion, 15 February 2022. Photograph by Ken Saunders II, Grinnell, IA.*

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES** (renewable yearly):

Fledgling (students) \$20 (electronic only), Institutional (domestic) \$30, Institutional (foreign) \$45, Goldfinch \$25 (electronic only), Bluebird \$35, Oriole \$50, Egret \$75, Osprey \$100, Bald Eagle \$250, and Peregrine Falcon \$500+. Membership dues entitle members to receive *Iowa Bird Life* quarterly and to vote and hold office in the Union. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Join, give a gift, or manage your membership on-line at <[www.iowabirds.org](http://www.iowabirds.org)>. Paper forms for new members and renewals may be mailed to the treasurer. Back issues of *Iowa Bird Life* are available from Membership Coordinator Cecille Thompson, 7503 Wildflower Ct, Johnson, IA 50131 ([cecillethompson@gmail.com](mailto:cecillethompson@gmail.com)).

**INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS:**

Original manuscripts, notes, letters (indicate if for publication), editorials, and other material relating to birds in Iowa should be sent by e-mail attachment in Microsoft Word to editor at [vistesparrow@gmail.com](mailto:vistesparrow@gmail.com). Research manuscripts should include abstract, introduction, study area, methods, results, discussion, and literature cited sections and will be sent for peer review. Accepted manuscripts will be published promptly depending on space available.

**PHOTOS AND GRAPHICS:**

Submit only original, unsized, and unenhanced photos in your camera's JPEG (\*.jpg) format. Photos must be 300 dpi at the size they will be printed (6-1/2" wide by 6-1/2" high for the cover and various smaller sizes inside), so setting your camera to its highest possible resolution is recommended. The photo editor will do any resizing and enhancing required because any previous adjustments to the photos may make them unusable. Members may upload their photos using the upload tool, Upload IBL Photos, after logging in. If you have trouble with internet connectivity preventing using the tool, email to the photo editor at [lgdau9@gmail.com](mailto:lgdau9@gmail.com). Submit graphs or maps as email attachments to your manuscript to the editor.

Deadlines for submission are 1 January for the fall season, 1 April for the winter season, 1 July for the spring season 1 October for the summer season.

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**FRONT COVER PHOTO:** Trumpeter Swans, Saylorville Dam, *Polk*, 22 February 2022. Photograph by Ron Goodman, Ankeny, IA.

**BACK COVER PHOTO:** Townsended's Solitaire, Waterman Creek area, *O'Brien*, 29 January 2022. Photograph by Dana Siefer, Storm Lake, IA.

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# **IOWA BIRD LIFE**

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## **IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION**



**Summer 2022 • Volume 92 • Number 3**



## IOWA BIRD LIFE

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*The Iowa Ornithologists' Union, founded in 1923, encourages interest in the identification, study, and protection of birds in Iowa and seeks to unite those who have these interests in common. Iowa Bird Life is a quarterly publication of the Union.*

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## Meet an Iowa Birder: Dean Hester

*Brandon Caswell*



*Dean Hester*

Like many birdwatchers who are keen on the natural history of life on this planet, one of our own Iowa birders excels when it comes to vertebrates. Dean Hester, a native of North English, has always been fascinated by the natural world. Of his many talents, Dean probably inherited artistic skills from his father, who is a distinguished American comic book artist, penciller, and writer. Dean can render incredible dinosaur drawings in minutes and has quickly become one of the outstanding bird photographers of Iowa as well.

Dean started birding seriously in 2015. That year he and I went to successive field school trips to Big Bend National Park, Texas, and another near Dillon, Montana, both through the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at the University of Iowa. These experiences quickly got him hooked on birding. Seeing a male Vermilion Flycatcher at a park in Alpine, Texas and a month later watching a Peregrine Falcon hunt the montane sagebrush steppe in southwestern Montana undoubtedly piqued his interests.

Dean studied paleontology at the University of Iowa with Dr. Chris Brochu. His focus was on Paleogene eusuchian crocodyliforms. After graduating with a MS in 2018, Dean was hired at Integrated DNA Technologies of Coralville, where he continues to work in chemical manufacturing. An eventual switch to a weekend shift has allowed him to take several great birding trips over the last few years, including multiple visits to Colorado, California, Florida, and Hawaii. Dean currently has trips planned abroad to the Western Caribbean, the Mexican states of Oaxaca and Chiapas, and Costa Rica.

Dean is a very goal-oriented birder. His ABA list is an important part of a larger, annual goal of adding 100 new vertebrate species to his life list. While seeing new birds is an important part of this goal, herping is another great passion of his. He has seen quite a few species of amphibians and reptiles in North America. His trips to warmer and wetter environs have also led to a new passion for snorkeling and fish photography.

One of his fondest birding memories was his first trip to Sax-Zim Bog in northern Minnesota. After spending a long time hiking around in the bitter cold looking for a stakeout Boreal Owl, serendipity would soon strike. As he was leaving the area some incoming non-birders shared information of a small

owl they had seen on the side of the road. After a short drive Dean got to see a sleeping Boreal Owl at chest level. Flammulated Owl is now the last nesting owl in the ABA he has yet to see.

Some advice from Dean would be, “Birding is an incredible window into the world of a naturalist. Every day I find myself interested in a new facet of the wild world. Be it out in a marsh, deep in the woods, or on a mountaintop, everywhere I look for birds shows me a thousand other sights I never thought I’d see! I have received much more joy from sticking my face in tide pools, looking under logs, and watching birds than I’ve ever had indoors.”

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## White Ibis in Chickasaw County

*Rachel Hau Anderson and Karl Fliris*

One week in late May 2022, Rachel and Scott Anderson and Karl Fliris independently saw, photographed, and identified Iowa’s third record of a White Ibis and the first adult. These are their stories.

### Rachel’s Story

On the afternoon of Sunday, 22 May 2022, I was chatting with my husband, Scott, my brother, Ed, and one of our cousins on the shore of our pond at our family farm two and a half miles northeast of Ionia on Highway 18 in Chickasaw County. As we were talking, we noticed a white, medium-sized bird fly over us from the east, heading west over the pond, wetlands, and prairie, towards the Wapsipicon River about 1/3 of a mile away. I didn’t recognize the bird right away, so grabbed my binocs (I always have them handy, along with



*White Ibis, northeast of Ionia, Chickasaw, 22 May 2022. Photograph by Rachel Hau Anderson, Ionia, IA.*

my camera!) and noted that the bird was pure white with black wingtips, medium size, and the wingspan appeared longer than the overall body length. Hmmm, I thought, what in the world is it? It definitely wasn’t something that I could remember seeing in our area before. So, I continued watching with my binocs as it circled over the river and disappeared behind the tree line, presumably landing.

I noted the general area where I had last seen it, and about 45 minutes later, I returned home (we live on the west side of the Wap-



sipinicon River, about ½ mile and around the corner from my family's farm), and told my husband I was going to grab my camera and take a walk to see if I could find the bird, as I was just so curious to know what it was. He joined me, and we took a hike along the river to the general area where I had seen it disappear, and the bird was still there! My husband spotted it first across the river, on a fallen log over a small creek that feeds into the river from the east/northeast, surrounded by a wetland/marshy area. I looked and could not believe what I was seeing—a White Ibis! We both knew right away what it was, as we have seen them along the beach while visiting family in Florida. But we couldn't believe we were seeing one in Iowa!

I started snapping photos from the upper bank of the Wapsi, then climbed down to a sandbar and stood almost in the water to get a better view. To say we were excited is an understatement! I took as many photos as I could before, unfortunately, my camera battery died. In my excitement to go look for the bird, I forgot to grab my camera case with extra batteries. But I did end up with several very good photos that clearly identify the bird as a White Ibis. I took a walk back to the same area later that evening, but the bird was no longer in that location.

I told my husband that I did not recall any reports of a White Ibis on the Iowa Birds Google group, which I subscribe to, only reports of a Glossy Ibis. So, I had a feeling that this was a rare sighting but had no idea how rare. As soon as we returned home, I immediately looked up White Ibis on the IowaBirds.org website and saw that it is considered “accidental” in Iowa. I also downloaded my photos and then sent an email to the Iowa Birds Google group to report the sighting. I immediately received responses from several fellow birders, and Brandon Caswell notified me that our sighting is only the third ever report of a White Ibis in Iowa, and the first report of an adult! How cool is that? I also had several fellow birders ask if they could visit the following morning to search for the bird, and we of course said yes.

So the next morning, Monday, 23 May, we met several fellow birders who made the trip to northeast Iowa in search of the White Ibis. Unfortunately, we did not relocate it (not for lack of trying, however, as we hiked into several different areas in our search, and even did some golf-cart birding). It was a great pleasure to meet Clayton Will, Brandon Caswell, Dick Sayles, Wendy Van De Walle, Paul Hertz, and Kathryn Deetz, and share our little piece of paradise with them.

Later that same week, on Friday, 27 May, Ann Johnson posted a report that the White Ibis was spotted again along the Wapsipinicon River by Karl Fliris, about nine miles south of where we saw it. I was so excited that someone else saw it, too. I keep thinking that if we hadn't noticed the bird as it was flying overhead, we never would have known it was there. We feel so very blessed that we were able to see and report this rare bird in Iowa.

I submitted photos and documentation of our sighting, and it was unanimously accepted after the first review.

## Karl's Story

On the morning of 27 May, I went out for a drive looking for birds to photograph, as I often do. I live in New Hampton, and my first destination that morning was south of Bassett, IA to check on the Bobolinks that I had been seeing there. I then decided to head over to another favorite spot near the intersection of 290th Street and Kenwood Avenue. The Wapsipinicon River flows very near that intersection, and I've seen many varieties of birds there, including a Sandhill Crane pair and two colts. It was the cranes that I was hoping to see next. As I got close to the river, I noticed something to my right, out in the field on the south side of 290th. I thought that it might have been one of the juvenile sandhill cranes, so I stopped, and backed up. It was far enough out



*White Ibis, 290th Street and Kenwood Avenue, Chickasaw, 27 May 2022. Photograph by Karl Fliris, New Hampton, IA.*

in the field, and heat waves were rising, so I still couldn't tell what I was seeing. I put my camera lens on it and snapped a few pictures. As I started to review the photos, I could tell right away that it wasn't a crane. With my cell phone, I took a picture of my camera review screen, and using my Cornell Lab of Ornithology Merlin mobile app, did an ID. To my surprise the Merlin app indicated that what I found was a White Ibis. I quickly took a few more photos, for fear that it might fly off. And it did fly further away out into the field. So, I went home, anxious to upload the White Ibis photos into my computer. On the way home, I sent a message to a nearby neighbor, Leon Sheets, about what I saw. He and I met a year or two ago in that area, while I was there exploring and taking pictures of the area birds and other wildlife. Leon went out later that

day and got a brief look at the ibis.

After editing the photos, I checked the Merlin app again, to see what the ibis's normal range was (nowhere near Iowa). That's when I decided to send an email to Ann Johnson, who I've gotten to know through the Iowa Ornithologists' Union. She's answered questions and helped to ID a number of birds for me these past few years. Her expertise has been greatly appreciated. I sent Ann a few photos of the ibis and asked whether a White Ibis has been seen in Iowa before. Ann replied later that day that another person, Rachel Anderson, had seen a White Ibis a few days earlier, north of Ionia. Ann indicated that this might be only the third official sighting of a White Ibis in Iowa. Ann asked for the sighting location, as other birders would certainly want to travel, in hopes of seeing the Ibis. Definitely the rarest bird find for me.

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# Whooping Crane in Dickinson County

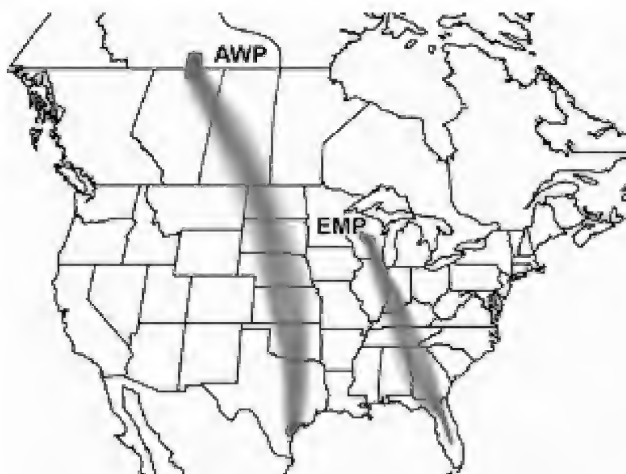
*Paul Hertzel*

On 23 May 2022, Crystal Cross was kayaking Horseshoe Lake southwest of Big Spirit Lake, Dickinson County, when a Whooping Crane appeared in the sky and began circling the lake. At the time, Crystal was video recording the wildlife encountered on the lake and raised the camera to capture the crane as it made several passes overhead. From her kayak on the surface of the lake, she recorded a two-minute video in which the crane can be seen for approximately one minute and can be heard giving single call notes at least 15 times.

Always, when Whooping Cranes occur in Iowa, the IOU is interested to know where the bird(s) may have come from. Although northern Iowa at one time may have been at the heart of the Whooping Crane nesting range (Dinsmore 1994), the state is no longer anywhere near the breeding area of the contemporary remaining wild population. So, a spring or summer occurrence, like the one recorded by Crystal Cross, is worth a closer look.

Recently, Whooping Cranes have begun to appear nearly annually in Iowa, with occurrences in six of the last seven years. But most sightings are of birds from the reintroduction project in the neighboring state of Wisconsin. That project, coordinated by the Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership, was founded in 2001 to restore a migratory population to eastern North America. The population is known as the Eastern Migratory Population (EMP), and today consists of about 80 birds (Thompson 2021).

On the other hand, the historic wild population migrates annually to the west of Iowa. It winters primarily at Aransas National Wildlife Refuge in coastal Texas and breeds at Wood Buffalo National Park in northwest Canada (AWP). Iowa lies between the two contemporary migratory populations (Figure 1).



*Figure 1. Typical migration routes of Aransas/Wood Buffalo Population (AWP) and Eastern Migratory Population (EMP). Source: International Crane Foundation.*

Since 2001, when the EMP was first created, there have been at least 15 instances of birds from that population occurring in Iowa, always in eastern or north-central Iowa. During that same period of time there have been three instances of birds from the AWP recorded in the state, one of which is believed to be Crystal Cross's Dickinson County bird. Two records are of birds whose

origins remain uncertain (Figure 2).

One way to infer a Whooping Crane is from the EMP is to recognize how the birds are tracked by the Partnership. Nearly all birds wear leg bands

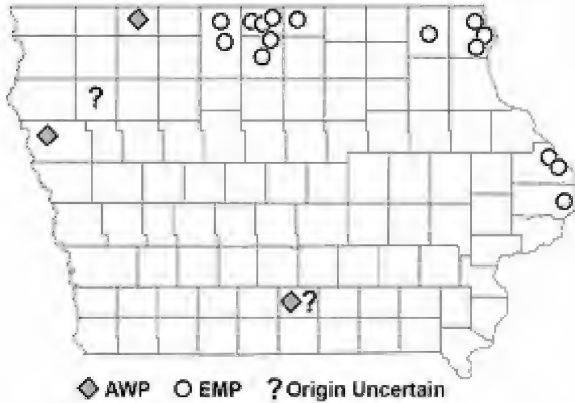


Figure 2. Whooping Crane occurrences in Iowa since 2001. AWP means Aransas/Wood Buffalo Population, and EMP means Eastern Migratory Population. Source: Iowa Bird Life, Field Reports 2001–2022.

and most are equipped with GSM transmitters or VHF radios. At any time, only a few birds have no visible bands or tracking equipment. For example, in 2021, there were two birds out of 75 with no identifying attachments (Thompson 2021). In 2022, there was only one (Hillary Thompson [pers. comm.] 19 July 2022).

The calling bird overhead at Horseshoe Lake had no visible bands or transmitters. This is evident from

the video and described by Crystal Cross. So, as part of the review of this record by the IOU Bird Records Committee, we contacted Hillary Thompson from the EMP Field Team. She wrote, “There is only one unbanded bird in the Eastern Migratory Population (which summers in Wisconsin). That bird was accounted for in Wisconsin around that time.” (Hillary Thompson [pers. comm.] 19 July 2022). This fact, that the one unbanded bird was accounted for at the time of Crystal Cross’s encounter at Horseshoe Lake together with the western location of the incident make it reasonable to believe the bird was from the AWP. Thompson added, “My best guess is a young one from the Canada population, even though it was late for them to be that far south.”

The committee accepted the record unanimously as the third occurrence in Iowa of Whooping Cranes from the AWP since 2001. The other two included at least one on 9 November 2013 in Lucas County (Hertzel 2014), and one on 25 November 2012 in Woodbury County (Hertzel 2013).

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## Field Reports—Spring 2022

*Connor Patrick Langan*



*Connor Langan*

### WEATHER

March began with several days of temperatures in excess of 50°F in many areas of the state. The high temperature of 76°F was recorded several times throughout the month, but 3 March in Beaconsfield was by far the earliest. The lows were much colder than last spring, as a stretch of single-digit temperatures on 12 and 13 March produced negatives in northwest Iowa. A snowstorm on 7 March blanketed the state in snow, with many parts of southern Iowa receiving more than 5 inches. Total snow accumulation throughout March was average to slightly above historical averages, while total rain accumulation was several inches above historical averages in some parts of the state.

Most of April seemed like a continuation of March, as average monthly temperatures were between 4 to 7 degrees below historical averages. A high of 85°F was 13 April in Atlantic, but temperatures quickly plummeted afterward. The week of 14 to 21 April saw temperatures barely exceed 50°F in many parts of the state. Snowstorms deposited substantial amounts of snow across Iowa on 17 and 18 April, with 2.9 inches in Jefferson on 17 April and 2.8 inches in Knoxville on 18 April being the most. Precipitation levels varied widely throughout the state, with some areas being slightly below historical averages and other areas being more than an inch above average.

The first week of May was still a continuation of March weather, but temperatures rapidly changed to summer weather between 9 and 13 May, as highs exceeded 90°F in much of the state. A high of 96°F was in northwest Iowa on 13 May. Aside from the week of hot weather in mid-May, the rest of the month was quite mild. Temperatures crept below freezing on 21 and 22 May in much of the state, and the average monthly temperatures were just barely above historical averages. Precipitation totals were variable just as they were in April, with some areas of the state above historical average totals and others being 1 to 2 inches below historical averages.

### HABITAT, GENERAL TREND

The warm weather at the beginning of March encouraged waterfowl to push north in substantial numbers, but migration was more or less halted for a week following a snowstorm on 7 March and low temperatures through 13 March. The ensuing days following this cold spell saw migratory geese push through and brought about large numbers of dabbling and diving ducks. Goose

numbers were down significantly from the highs of last spring. Dabbling duck numbers were fairly average, but diving ducks were noted in exceptionally large numbers this spring. Overall, it was a solid spring for waterfowl, with a total of 34 species observed.

Despite cold temperatures persisting through early May, four record-early shorebird accounts were made this spring. A total of 33 shorebirds this spring was on par with the terrific totals of the past couple of springs. Considerable rainfall in mid-May created ideal ephemeral mudflats for shorebirds, and species such as Hudsonian Godwit doubtlessly benefitted from the abundance of habitat. Many shorebird species ended up being observed in twice the counties as last spring, though several species of “peeps” declined in number. Gull species were back into the single digits this spring, though nine gull species were still above average.

The numbers of raptors were average to slightly below average for most raptor species, though Swainson’s Hawks made an impressive showing for the second consecutive spring. Last spring it was hypothesized that westerly winds pushed substantial numbers of these birds into the state, but after another spring with an abundance of reports, questions about a possible shift in the migratory routes of some of these birds can be raised. A total of 26 raptor species were reported this spring including a terrific eight species of owl.

Neotropical migrants poured into the state on schedule despite the cold weather that persisted through early May. It was a terrific spring for flycatcher diversity, with 13 species being the best spring total since 2014 (Harms 2014). Warblers seemed to linger for a bit longer than usual, as trees may have leafed out a bit later than usual due to the cold temperatures until mid-May. The 35 total warbler species that were observed this spring represent all of the usual warblers that are encountered in Iowa, with Hooded Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, and Prairie Warbler being expected at this point.

## UNUSUAL SPECIES

Just as last spring, five accidental species were documented: Whooping Crane, Snowy Plover, Yellow-billed Loon, White Ibis, and Lesser Goldfinch. The White Ibis and Lesser Goldfinch each represented Iowa’s first spring records of their respective species.

Casual species that were documented were Mottled Duck, California Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Ferruginous Hawk, Say’s Phoebe, Fish Crow, Bewick’s Wren, Hoary Redpoll, Prairie Warbler, Western Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak, and Painted Bunting.

All in all, 17 accidental or casual species were observed this spring, the best spring total since 2014 (Harms 2014). Eight hybrids were observed in the state this spring, with seven being waterfowl intergrades. Other notable observations include Yellow Rail, Whimbrel, four loon species for the second time in Iowa’s spring history, Laughing Gull, Neotropic Cormorant, Barn Owl, three Prairie Falcon reports, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Townsend’s Solitaire, both crossbill species, and six Worm-eating Warbler reports.

## SPECIES DATA

All CAPS = Accidental or Casual species, \* = documented. County names are in italics. Full names of contributors are at the end of the article. Abbreviations used: **AHHP** = Ada Hayden Heritage Park, **ERVP** = East River Valley Park, **L** = lake, **L&D** = lock and dam, **M** = marsh, **m.ob.** = many observers, **NWR** = national wildlife refuge, **P** = park, **ph** = photo, **R** = river, **RA** = recreation area, **Res** = reservoir, **SF** = state forest, **SL** = sewage lagoons, **SI** = slough, **SP** = state park, **WA** = wildlife area, **WMA** = wildlife management area, **W** = wetland

### **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck:**

Being observed with increasing frequency in the state, two reports this spring: one 13–14 May at Dakins Lake P *Story* (Erica Place-ph, CPL-ph, SSP-ph) and one on 31 May at Credit Island P *Scott* (Carla Secoy-ph, SuS-ph, Forrest Stonedahl-ph).

**Snow Goose:** Peaking from early to mid-Mar, a high of 75,000 was observed 19 Mar at Keg Creek WMA *Mills* (Jacob Cooper). A collection of reports on 29 May in southeastern Iowa marked the last.

**Ross's Goose:** A high of 120 was 5 Mar at Hawkeye WMA *Johnson* (MHB-ph). This species has lingered well into May for the past couple of years, and 2 on 29 May at Amana Lily L *Iowa* were one day off from the 3rd-latest record (JoW-ph).

**Snow x Ross's Goose:** This rare hybrid was noted 16 Apr at DeSoto NWR *Harrison* (Eric Bents-ph).

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** A high of 15,000 was recorded in *Louisa*, *Jackson*, and *Clay* from early to mid-Mar as this species peaked.

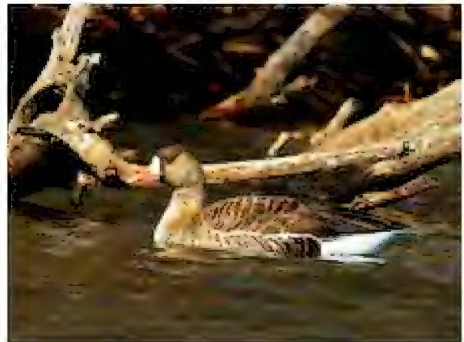
**Snow x Greater White-fronted Goose:** One on 10 Mar at Hayes Pit *Buena Vista* (DSi-ph).

**Cackling Goose:** Despite a count of 200 being reported in mid-Feb, numbers were low during

spring, with a high of 75 on 1 Mar at Carter L *Pottawattamie* (Sam Manning). Six on 23 Apr at Cone M *Louisa* were last (DGu).

**Canada Goose:** A high of 10,000 was 3 Mar at Lewis and Clark SP *Monona* (Linda Ferring, Cathy Prettyman).

**Mute Swan:** With reports in 11 counties, this spring represented the most Mute Swan sightings in Iowa's history. Six birds, 3 adults and 3 cygnets, on 14 May at Mississippi River L&D 14 *Scott* was the high (SuS, Forrest Stonedahl). One on 31 May in *Dallas* was the record-late spring observation (Jacob Pitzenberger-ph).



*Greater White-fronted Goose, Swan Lake State Park, Carroll, 25 March 2022. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.*

**Trumpeter Swan:** Peaking from early through mid-Mar, highs were 367 on 19 Mar at Cone M *Louisa*

(Sbi) and 325 on 20 Mar at Green Island WMA *Jackson* (EB).

**Tundra Swan:** Observed in a solid 15 counties, a terrific spring total of 180 was 9 Mar at Bulger's Hollow RA *Clinton* (KJM). The last was 17 Apr at Harmon L *Winnebago* (RAS).

**Wood Duck:** Reports from four counties on 2 Mar marked the first. A high of 102 was 1 Apr on the Mississippi R *Allamakee* (KJM, Tammy Loussaert).

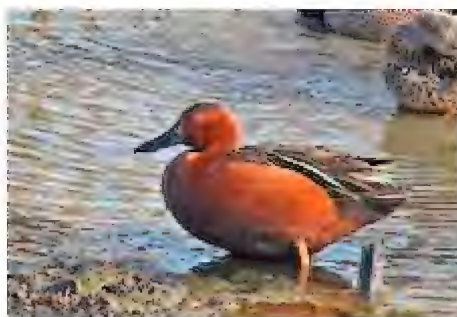


Wood Duck, Otter Creek Marsh WMA, Tama, 20 March 2022. Photograph by Ken Saunders II, Grinnell, IA.

**Blue-winged Teal:** First was 5 Mar at Princeton WMA *Scott* (SMF). Peaking from mid through late Apr, a high of 500 was 24 Apr at Cone M *Louisa* (JMc).

**Cinnamon Teal:** Reports from seven counties: one male from 1–2 Apr at Lakeport Area *Woodbury* (MaH-ph, m.ob.), one male on 4 Apr at Cone M *Louisa* (SuS-ph), one male on 9 Apr (CD-ph) and a pair on 1 May (Ted Wolff-ph) at Riverton WMA *Fremont*, one male from 15–20 Apr at Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt *Polk* (RJT, m.ob.), one male on 16 Apr at Bays Branch *Guthrie* (SJD-ph), 2 males and one female on 25 Apr at Cedar R Crossing *Johnson* (Luuk Clark) and one male on 1

May at Coralville Res *Johnson* (Tom Bootsmiller). One on 22 May at Elk L *Clay* became the 2nd-latest report (Rob Patterson *fide* SJD).



Cinnamon Teal, Chichaqua Bottoms WA, Polk, 18 April 2022. Photograph by Clayton Will, Madrid, IA.

**Blue-winged Teal x Cinnamon Teal:** One on 20 Apr in *Dallas* (KP-ph).

**Northern Shoveler:** A high of 700 was 28 Mar at L Manawa *Pottawattamie* (Ted Wolff).

**Gadwall:** Reported in large numbers, highs were 1100 on 27 Mar (JMc) and 1000 on 2 Apr (JE) at Hawkeye WMA *Johnson*.

**American Wigeon:** Seven on 1 Mar at Deere Dike *Dubuque* were first (DAS). A superb high of 900 on 24 Mar at Bulger's Hollow RA *Clinton* (KJM) far exceeded typical spring highs around 200. Contrary to last spring, many lingered into May, and one on 23 May at Cone M *Louisa* was last (MMA).

**Mallard:** Peaking in mid-Mar, highs of 3800 on 13 Mar and 2800 on 10 Mar were at Big Creek SP *Polk* (AB).

**Mallard x Gadwall:** A drake “Brewer's” Duck was reported 28 Mar and 1 Apr at Otter Creek M *Tama* (KS-ph).

**American Black Duck:** Report-



ed in 13 counties, a high of 6 was at Cedar Bend P *Black Hawk* (CPL-ph). Last was 29 Apr at McHugh Wetlands *Boone* (Curt Fisher).

**MOTTLED DUCK:** One on 20 Apr at Saylorville Res *Polk* was the lone report (\*SJD-details).

**American Black Duck x Mallard:** Observed in three counties, a high of 2 was 3 and 8 Apr at South Riverside Trail *Black Hawk* (Alex Muench).

**Northern Pintail:** A high of 1469 was 26 Mar at Smith's Sl *Clay* (ET). One on 27 May at Maskunkya M *Mahaska* was last (DCJ).

**Mallard x Northern Pintail:** One on 1 Mar at Cedar Bend P *Black Hawk* (CPL-ph) was likely the offspring of a Northern Pintail and some sort of domestic Mallard.

**Green-winged Teal:** The top nine counts for this species came from Hawkeye WMA *Johnson*, with a high of 2500 on 7 Apr (BCC).

**Blue-winged x Green-winged Teal:** One on 16 Apr at Bacon Creek P *Woodbury* (RWR-ph).

**Canvasback:** A tremendous spring high count of 11,200 was 24 Mar along the Mississippi R *Clinton* (KJM). Similar to last spring, this species persisted throughout most of May, with the last on 25 May at Deere Dike *Dubuque* (TM).

**Redhead:** High counts in *Cerro Gordo* of 2500 on 3 Apr at Ventura M and 2000 on 16 Apr at Clear L (PH) represented the first time a spring high count has eclipsed 1000 since 2013 (Harms 2013). One on 30 May at Terry Trueblood RA *Johnson* was last (JMc).

**Ring-necked Duck:** A fantastic high of 4785 on 27 Mar at Rice

L *Worth* was recorded (PH). A lone male on 29 May in *Marion* was last (EKe-ph).

**Greater Scaup:** Reported in 15 counties this spring, a sensational high of 125 was 24 Mar along the Mississippi R *Clinton* (KJM). Single males on 7 May at both Hendrickson M *Story* (PMi, WiC, HL, ESE, CDB) and Hawkeye WMA *Johnson* (JNw, BiB-ph) were last.

**Lesser Scaup:** A high of 21,350 was 24 Mar along the Mississippi R *Clinton* (KJM).

**Surf Scoter:** Two reports: 3 females and one male on 29 Apr at Amana Lily L *Iowa* (JF) and 1 male on 14–16 May at L *Cornelia Wright* (SJD).

**White-winged Scoter:** All: 1–2 from 30 Mar–1 Apr at Storm L *Buena Vista* (DSi-ph), one on 2–9 Apr at Saylorville Res *Polk* (Cory Gregory-ph, SJD), and one on 5 Apr at Mississippi River L&D 11 *Dubuque* (TM-ph).

**Black Scoter:** No reports

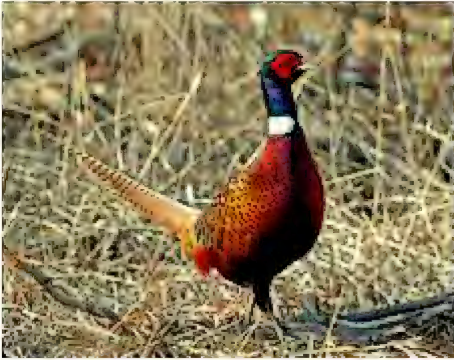
**Long-tailed Duck:** All: one on 5 Apr at Red Rock Res *Marion* (EKe-ph), one from 30 Apr–2 May at Trumpeter M *Lee* (SBI, DP), and one on 8 May at L *Manawa Pottawattamie* (Quentin Nolan-ph).

**Bufflehead:** A high of 1300 was 9 Mar at Bulger's Hollow RA *Clinton* (KJM). One on 17 May at Prairie Lakes P *Black Hawk* was last (AIB).

**Common Goldeneye:** Highs were in *Clinton* on 9 Mar with counts of 3030 along the Mississippi R and 3000 at Bulger's Hollow RA (KJM). A drake on 27 May at Deere Dike *Dubuque* was last (DAS).

**Hooded Merganser:** Average numbers were reported, with a high

of 70 on 5 Mar at Saylorville Res *Polk* (KVS, SCS).



*Ring-necked Pheasant, Iowa Arboretum area, Boone, 7 March 2022. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.*

**Common Merganser:** Peaking in mid-Mar, a high of 550 was 9 Mar at Red Rock Res *Marion* (EKe). Just as last spring, this species continued through May, with a male on 30 May at Wildcat Den SP *Muscatine* being last (MR, m.ob.).

**Red-breasted Merganser:** Three on 5 Mar at AHHP *Story* were first (ABu, BTh). The top 13 counts were made at Saylorville Res *Polk*, with a high of 350 on 4 Apr (SCS). Contrary to most springs, this species persisted through May, with a female on 31 May at Deere Dike *Dubuque* being last (DAS).

**Ruddy Duck:** Six on 2 Mar at AHHP *Story* were first (KeB). A high count of 797 was 24 Mar along the Mississippi R *Clinton* (KJM)

**Northern Bobwhite:** Numbers were up from last spring, with reports from 28 counties. A high of 6 was 28 May at Kellerton WMA *Ringgold* (DTh). One on 27 May in *Woodbury* was most northerly (RaW).

**Wild Turkey:** High: 45 on 1 Mar in *Woodbury* (Pam Pfautsch).

**Ruffed Grouse:** No reports this spring.

**Greater Prairie-Chicken:** As usual, all reports came from Kellerton WMA *Ringgold*. Numbers were up this spring, with a high of 18 on 9 Apr (DCH).

**Gray Partridge:** Reported in 21 counties with sightings in *Johnson* being the most southerly.

**Ring-necked Pheasant:** A high of 38 was 15 May at Union Slough NWR *Kossuth* (JNw, AaB).

**Pied-billed Grebe:** A bevy of reports on 5 Mar indicated the first. Not reported in as large of numbers as last spring, a high of 75 was 7 May at Hendrickson M *Story* (PMi, WiC, HL, ESE, CDB).

**Horned Grebe:** First were 5 on 17 Mar in Sabula *Jackson* (EB). A high of 9 was 21 Apr at Cedar L *Linn* (JE). One on 15 May at Little Clear L *Pocahontas* was last (DSi).

**Red-necked Grebe:** This species was reported in six counties, the same total as last spring. The first was 17 Apr at Lake Wapello SP *Davis* (LGR-ph). Reports of 1–2 throughout May in *Dickinson* indicate probable breeders (ET).

**Eared Grebe:** With reports from an astounding 17 counties, this was one of the best springs for this species in recent history. The first did not arrive until 15 Apr at Folsom L *Mills* (CD-ph). A high of 11 was 21 Apr at Terry Trueblood RA *Johnson* (DP, m.ob.).

**Western Grebe:** Just as last spring, there were four reports from four counties: one on 10 May at Bays Branch WMA *Guthrie* (DTh), two on 13 May at Little Storm L *Buena Vista* (DSi-ph), 1 on 22 May at Hen-

drickson M *Story* (DCH, m.ob.), and two on 22 May at Hawkeye WMA *Johnson* (JF, m.ob.).

**Eurasian Collared-Dove:** A high of 10 was 18 Mar in *Woodbury* (Tucker Lutter).

**White-winged Dove:** One on 15 May in *Johnson* (Kevin Ripka-ph) represented the first spring record since 2019 (Langan 2019).

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** Firsts were 8 May at Glenwood Archeological State Preserve *Mills* (Eli Weber, Andi Weber, Silas Weber-ph) and AHHP *Story* (WO-ph). Highs of 7 were 15 May in *Marion* (EKe) and 28 May at Mines of Spain SRA *Dubuque* (DAS).

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** Widely reported last spring, numbers were even better this year, as this species was observed in 29 counties. The first was 9 May at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (Logan Melvin). A high of 3 was 27 May at Boone Forks WMA *Hamilton* (CPL).



Eared Grebe, Swan Lake State Park, Carroll, 1 May 2022. Photograph by Brandon Caswell, Marion, IA.

**Common Nighthawk:** Firsts were 4 May at Blackhawk Bottoms *Des Moines* (Bruce Pratt) and *Marion* (JaJ). Not reported in large concentrations this spring, a high of 50 was 10 May at Peterson P *Story*

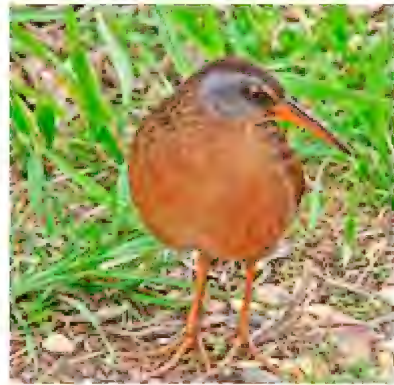
(EEO) while the next closest counts were 10.

**Chuck-will's-widow:** Reports of 4 on 15 May (BiB, PDBS) and 2 on 31 May (RJT) at their traditional location at Lucas Unit Stephens SF *Lucas* as well as 1 on 15 May in *Decatur* (LW, BAB).

**Eastern Whip-poor-will:** Reported in eight counties, first was 26 Apr in *Appanoose* (Jill Marshall). A high of 4 was reported several times.

**Chimney Swift:** Five on 21 Apr at Harbor Inn P *Cerro Gordo* were first (Benjamin Determan). A high of 180 at Riverside P *Muscatine* (HL, Jordan Hoosman) was a terrific spring count

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** Arriving early this spring, firsts were 22 Apr in *Jasper* (Emily Benedict) and *Jefferson* (SFr). A high of 12 was 10 May in *Monona* (MaH).



Virginia Rail, Jemmerson Slough, Dickinson, 17 May 2022. Photograph by Ed Thelen, Spirit Lake, IA.

**Virginia Rail:** Arriving much later compared to previous years, a handful of reports from 27 Apr represented the first. A high of 4 was 3 May at Little Storm L *Buena Vista* (DSi).

**Sora:** Arriving early, 2 on 3 Apr

at Cone M *Louisa* were first (DGu, BCC, Kim Pagel).



*American Avocet, Hawkeye WMA, Johnson, 9 May 2022. Photograph by Brandon Caswell, Marion, IA.*

**Common Gallinule:** Noted in five counties, first was 2 May at Kiowa M *Sac* (DSi-ph). Numbers have seemingly declined the last few years, and a high of 3 was 7 May at Cone M *Louisa* (DGu).

**American Coot:** One on 4 Mar at Cone M *Louisa* was first (Jason McCurdy, Nick Benson). A high of 3000 was 3 Apr at Green Island WMA *Jackson* (Daniel Bellich)

**Yellow Rail:** The lone report was 5 May at Bays Branch WMA *Guthrie* (SSP-details).

**Sandhill Crane:** Four on 2 Mar at Otter Creek M *Tama* were first (KS). Peaking in mid-Mar, a high of 72 was 16 Mar at Cone M *Louisa* (Nicholas Timmer).

**WHOOING CRANE:** A very late bird on 23 May at Horseshoe L *Dickinson* (\*Crystal Cross-ph) was devoid of any leg bands, meaning that it was almost certainly an individual from the wild Canadian population. This was Iowa's first record since 2012 (Kenne 2012) and the first-ever modern-day spring record.

**Black-necked Stilt:** Reported in 9 counties, one on 9 Apr at Hawkeye WMA *Johnson* was first (JF). A high of 4 was 22 May at Green Island WMA *Jackson* (Julie Bryson).

**American Avocet:** Reported in 27 counties, firsts were 11 Apr with 3 at Folsom L *Mills* (Giles Blair) and 4 at L Manawa *Pottawattamie* (Nicholas Salick, John Cougher). A high of 32 was 24 Apr at Jensen M *Madison* (SBa-ph).

**Black-bellied Plover:** Observed in more than double the counties as last spring, reports were made in 15 counties. First was 9 May at Green Island WMA *Jackson* (TM), and a high of 16 was 21 May at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RJT).



*Black-bellied Plovers, Storm Lake, Buena Vista, 23 May 2022. Photograph by Dana Siefer, Storm Lake, IA.*

**American Golden-Plover:** Reported in 18 counties, between 5 to 10 on 31 Mar at Saylorville Res *Polk* were first (AB, JB, RJT). A fantastic high of 217 was 13 May at Green Island WMA *Jackson* (EB-ph). Four on 20 May at Harrier M *Boone* were last (Alek Kretzinger).

**Killdeer:** A high of 55 was 31 Mar at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB).



**Semipalmated Plover:** One on 1 Apr at Prairie Lakes P *Black Hawk* tied the record-early report (DGE, AKO-ph). A high of 60 was 13 May at Green Island WMA *Jackson* (TM).

**Piping Plover:** A good spring for this species, with reports from 3 counties: 1–2 from 21 Apr to 19 May at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB, m.ob.), one from 22 Apr to 10 May at Jersey Cattle Farm *Sioux* (JNw-ph, BFH-ph, JP, m.ob.), and 2 on 5 May in *Harrison* (Sam Manning).



*Piping Plover, Saylorville Reservoir, Polk, 19 May 2022. Photograph by Clayton Will, Madrid, IA.*

**SNOWY PLOVER:** One on 26 Apr in *Woodbury* was mingling with a Piping Plover (\*MaH-ph). This was the first spring record since 2016 (Harms 2016).

**Upland Sandpiper:** One on 12 Apr in *Mills* was first (Nicholas Salick). Reports have increased in four consecutive years, with records from 25 counties this spring. A high of 5 was at Kellerton WMA *Ring-gold* (JF), the location of the high count for the past four years.

**Whimbrel:** At least 24 on 20 May at Rock Creek SP *Jasper* (CPL-ph). Two reports were made at Little Storm L *Buena Vista*, with 2 reported on 22 May and 25 reported on 26

May (DSI-ph).

**Hudsonian Godwit:** This spring is in contention for one of the best Hudsonian Godwit springs in Iowa's recorded history. Recorded in nearly twice the counties as last spring, reports were made in 27 counties. One on 3 Apr at Saylorville Res *Polk* tied the 3rd-earliest report (ABu-ph, RJT). Previously not reported in triple digits since spring 2013 (Harms 2013), seven observations topped 100 birds. A terrific high of 158 was 25 Apr at Sioux Jersey Cattle Farm *Woodbury* (JP). One on 28 May at Maskunkya M *Mahaska* was last (DCJ).

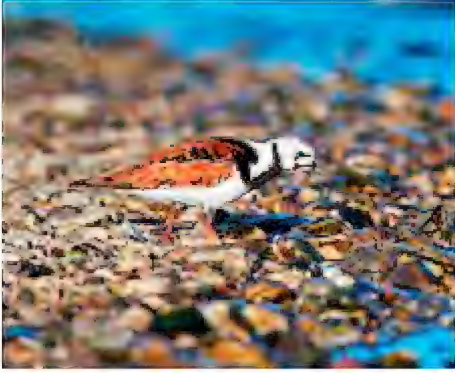


*Hudsonian Godwits, Rock Creek State Park, Jasper, 18 April 2022. Photograph by Ken Saunders II, Grinnell, IA.*

**Marbled Godwit:** Reported in more than twice the counties as last spring, observations came from 19 counties. Firsts were 14 Apr with one at Deere Dike *Dubuque* (DAS, TM) and 7 at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB, RJT). A high of 36 was 16 May at Amana Lily L *Iowa* (JF, m.ob.). Three on 23 May at Hawkeye WMA *Johnson* were last (JKe-ph).

**Ruddy Turnstone:** Reported in nearly twice the counties as last spring, this species was observed in 13 counties. The record-early observation was 26 Apr at Jensen M *Mad-*

ison (SBa-ph). Highs were 20 May with 29 at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB) and 27 at Clear Lake *Cerro Gordo* (BVL).



Ruddy Turnstone, Little Storm Lake, Iowa, 16 May 2022. Photograph by Dana Siefer, Storm Lake, IA.

**Stilt Sandpiper:** More widely reported compared to last spring, with observations from 22 counties. The first was 22 Apr at Cedar R Crossing *Johnson* (JMc-ph). A high of 124 on 20 May at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB) represented the first triple-digit spring observation of this species since 2014 (Harms 2014).

**Sanderling:** Numbers increased this spring, with reports from 11 counties. The first was 22 Apr at Saylorville Res *Polk* (JB) and a high of 19 was 21 May at Badger Lake WMA *Monona* (MaH-ph).

**Dunlin:** One on 4 Apr at Raccoon River P *Polk* was first (Sawyer Avery-ph). A high of 200 was 22 May at Green Island WMA *Jackson* (Martha Corfman).

**Baird's Sandpiper:** An early arrival on 22 Mar at Sandhill L *Woodbury* was first (MH-ph). Numbers were down from last spring, with a high of 30 on 15 Apr at Sioux Jersey Cattle Farm *Woodbury* (MaH).

**Least Sandpiper:** First was 11 Apr at Maskunk M *Mahaska* (SSP). A high of 100 was 17 May in *Guthrie* (Victor Webber).

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** The record-early report was tied on 25 Apr at Red Rock Res *Marion* (EKe-ph). Numbers were down considerably from last year, with a high of 24 being 10 May at Sioux Jersey Cattle Farm *Woodbury* (BFH, JP).

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** No reports this spring.

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** First was 16 Mar at Red Rock Res *Marion* (JaJ). Numbers were lower than the past few springs, with highs of 220 on 15 Apr at Hawkeye WMA *Johnson* (BCC) and 210 on 19 Apr at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB).

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** Four on 15 Apr at Red Rock Res *Marion* were first (EKe-ph). A high of 220 was 20 May at Terry Trueblood RA *Johnson* (MHB).

**Western Sandpiper:** The only report was 1–2 on 19 May at Saylorville Res *Polk* (DCH, BE).

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** An assortment of reports from 1 May represented the first. A high of 38 was 14 May at Cone M *Louisa* (DGu). The last was 27 May at Maskunk M *Mahaska* (DCJ).

**Long-billed Dowitcher:** Two on 8 Mar at Maskunk M *Mahaska* were the record-early observations (DCJ). A high of 77 was 27 Apr at Sioux Jersey Cattle Farm *Woodbury* (BFH, JP).

**American Woodcock:** First was 2 Mar at Deere Dike *Dubuque* (KJAB). A high of 17 was 24 Mar at Princeton WMA *Scott* (KJM).

**Wilson's Snipe:** Four on 12 Mar

at Heron Bend Conservation Area *Lee* were first (SBI). A high of 41 was 16 Apr at Y Avenue Wetland *Story* (PMi, HL, WiC, ESE). One on 18 May at Chain-O-Lakes WMA *Linn* was last (JE).

**Spotted Sandpiper:** Two on 17 Apr at Terry Trueblood RA *Johnson* were first (Elisabeth Hachtman-ph, Alex Hachtman). A high of 15 was 12 May along the South Skunk R Trail *Story* (CDB).

**Solitary Sandpiper:** First was 11 Apr at Saulsbury Bridge RA *Muscatine* (Peter Leabhart-ph). A high of 9 was 23 Apr at Cedar R Crossing *Johnson* (JMc). One on 22 May at Cone M *Louisa* was last (Susan Nixon).

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** Firsts were 16 Mar at Red Rock Res *Marion* (JaJ) and Cone M *Louisa* (Nicholas Timmer). A high of 264 was 1 May in *Guthrie* (ABu, BTh).



*Short-billed Dowitcher, Terry Trueblood RA, Johnson, 19 May 2022. Photograph by Brandon Caswell, Marion, IA.*

**Willet:** First was 14 Apr at Deere Dike *Dubuque* (DAS-ph, TM). A high of 50 was 7 May at Sandhill L *Woodbury* (BFH, JP). Last was 23 May at Trumbull L *Clay* (HL-ph).

**Greater Yellowlegs:** One on

9 Mar at Cone M *Louisa* was first (DP). Peaking in mid-Apr, a high of 60 was 15 Apr at Hawkeye WMA *Johnson* (Richard Randell). Last was 31 May at Cedar R Crossing *Johnson* (MHB-ph).

**Wilson's Phalarope:** Two on 14 Apr at AHHP *Story* were first (WO-ph). One on 28 May in *Sioux* was last (LMO-ph).

**Red-necked Phalarope:** A terrific spring, with reports from 10 counties. A variety of reports on 20 May marked the first. An exceptional high of 32 on 20 May at Sandhill L *Woodbury* was the best spring count since 2006 (Kenne 2006).



*Red-necked Phalarope, Terry Trueblood RA, Johnson, 25 May 2022. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*

**Bonaparte's Gull:** Five on 24 Mar at Coralville Res *Johnson* were first (BCC). Good numbers were reported for the second straight year, and a high of 364 was 21 Apr at A. Y. McDonald P *Dubuque* (KJAB). A late individual on 27 May at Mississippi L&D 11 *Dubuque* was last (DAS-details).

**Laughing Gull:** Two reports: one adult on 10 May at Terry Trueblood RA *Johnson* (MHB-ph, m.ob.) and at least one immature bird from



15–31 May at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD-ph, JJD, m.ob.).



*Laughing Gull, Forster's Tern and Caspian Terns, Terry Trueblood RA, Johnson, 10 May 2022. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*

**Franklin's Gull:** Seven on 14 Mar at Coralville Res *Johnson* were first (JDJ). A high of 1200 was 26 May at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB).

**Ring-billed Gull:** A high of 5800 was 20 Mar at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB).

**CALIFORNIA GULL:** An adult was observed 25 – 26 May at Saylorville Res *Polk* (\*JG-ph, \*DTh-details, \*PMo-ph).

**Herring Gull:** A high of 520 on 9 Mar at Bulger's Hollow RA *Clin-ton* (KJM) was the best spring count since 2014 (Harms 2014). A lingering immature bird on 14 May at Storm L *Buena Vista* was last (DSi-ph).

**Iceland Gull:** A tremendous spring, with reports from 10 counties. A high of 2 was 1 Mar at Credit Island P *Scott* (JF). One on 5 Apr in Mason City *Cerro Gordo* was last (CJF).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** Just as last spring, this species was observed in 10 counties, making for a third consecutive year of reports in

at least nine counties. A high of 4 was 19 Apr at Storm L *Buena Vista* (DSi-details). This species persisted far later than usual, and the record-late bird was observed 26 May at Saylorville Res *Polk* (PMo-ph).

**Glaucous Gull:** One report: an adult on 17 Mar at A.Y. McDonald P *Dubuque* (TM-ph, Craig Kruse).

**GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL:** One 3rd cycle bird was observed 30–31 Mar at George Wyth SP *Black Hawk* (\*TSS, \*AKO).

**Least Tern:** Two on 19 May at Saylorville Res *Polk* were the lone report (AB, RJT-ph).

**Caspian Tern:** Arriving in substantial numbers far earlier than usual, the record-early observation was 9 Apr at Rathbun Res *Appanoose* (ESE-ph, HL, CDB, Evan Wilson). The top 12 counts came from Saylorville Res *Polk*, and a high of 37 was 16 May (RJT).

**Black Tern:** Firsts were 1 May with one at George Wyth SP *Black Hawk* (Kris/Craig Rash), 2 at Green Island WMA *Jackson* (EB), and 2 at Pleasant Creek RA *Linn* (BT). Numbers were terrific, as a high of 200 was recorded on four separate occasions: 9 May at Little Storm L *Buena Vista* (DSi), 22 May at Saylorville Res *Polk* (KVS, SCS), and 22 and 23 May at Hendrickson M *Story* (EEO, PMi).

**Common Tern:** Reported in 10 counties, 2 on 28 Apr at Saylorville Res *Polk* were first (AB) while a high of 12 was 15 May at the same location (RLC). A group of 9 on 31 May at Deere Dike *Dubuque* were last (DAS).

**Forster's Tern:** One on 13 Apr at Prairie Lakes P *Black Hawk* was



first (DGE, AKO). A high of 63 was 14 May at Trickle Sl *Dickinson* (ET).

**Red-throated Loon:** The first spring record since 2019 (Langan 2019), at least one was present at Saylorville Res *Polk* from 5–11 Apr (Nick Osness, m.ob.).

**Pacific Loon:** The first spring record since 2016 (Harms 2016) and the 2nd-earliest ever, one on 9 Apr was at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD, AB, SSP).

**Common Loon:** Firsts were 21 Mar with one at Little Wall L *Hamilton* (Curt Fisher) and 2 at Dale Maffitt Res *Polk* (RJT). Numbers were fantastic this spring, and highs were at Saylorville Res *Polk* with 89 on 9 Apr (SSP) and 84 on 11 Apr (AB). The last was 27 May at AHHP *Story* (WO).

**YELLOW-BILLED LOON:** One on 1 Apr at Big Creek SP *Polk* (\*MRC-ph) was no joke, it was Iowa's second spring record, with the first being spring 1999 (Kent 1999).

**Double-crested Cormorant:** One on 4 Mar at A.Y. McDonald P *Dubuque* was first (DAS). A high of 1300 was 16 Apr at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB).

**Neotropic Cormorant:** An exceptional spring for this species, with 4 reports of singles: 8–9 Apr at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB-ph, m.ob.), 2 May at Pine Lake SP *Hardin* (CPL-ph, MKS), 3 May at Terry Trueblood RA *Johnson* (MHB-ph, MMA), and 27–30 May at Mississippi L&D 11 *Dubuque* (TM-ph, m.ob.).

**American White Pelican:** A high of 3000 was 14 May at Bulger's Hollow RA *Clinton* (EEO).

**American Bittern:** Reported in 20 counties, the first was 9 Apr at

Arney Bend WA *Marshall* (MP). A considerable high of 4 was 14 May in *Dallas* (Alex Kretzinger).

**Least Bittern:** Singles were reported in seven counties from *Clinton* to *Sac*.

**Great Blue Heron:** Highs of 50 were 16 Apr in Johnston *Polk* (Brenda Greaves) and 14 May at Bulger's Hollow RA *Clinton* (EEO).

**Great Egret:** One on 27 Mar at Hickory Grove P *Story* was first (BTh). Numbers were fairly low this spring, with a high of 100 being 14 May at Bulger's Hollow RA *Clinton* (EEO).

**Snowy Egret:** Numbers were far below the incredible totals of the previous spring, as this species was reported in four counties. Two reports came from Saylorville Res *Polk*, with one on 11 Apr (TM-ph, m.ob.) and at least one between 10–20 May (AB-ph, m.ob.). Three reports were in *Story*: one on 24 Apr at AHHP (WO-ph), one on 24 Apr at Hendrickson M (EEO), and one on 8 May in Ames (SJD). One was present on 10 May at Chain-O'-Lakes P *Linn* (JF), while the last was 14 May at Big Wall L *Wright* (SJD).



Cattle Egret, Maskunkya Marsh, Mahaska, 30 May 2022. Photograph by Julie Johnston, Packwood, IA.

**Cattle Egret:** Reports from 26

counties represented an exceptional spring. One on 12 Apr in *Greene* was first (MTW). A terrific high of 29 was 13 May at Tom's Pond *Johnson* (JLF).

**Green Heron:** First: 21 Apr at L MacBride *Johnson* (Sam Callahan). Not reported in large numbers this spring, a high of 3 was recorded a handful of times.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** Arriving a couple of weeks later than last spring, the first was 19 Apr at Pelikan L *Bremer* (Jonathan Wolff). A high of 3 was recorded 8 May at DeSoto NWR *Harrison* (CD) and 18 May at Owego Wetland Complex *Woodbury* (MaH). Just as last spring, this species was reported in 13 counties.

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** The lone report was 29 Apr at Bacon Creek P *Woodbury* (RaW-details), a location in which this species was present last spring.

**WHITE IBIS:** An adult first seen on 22 May on private property in *Chickasaw* (\*Rachel Hau Anderson-ph) was spotted again on 27 May at a location in *Chickasaw* that was about 8 miles south of the initial sighting (\*KF1-ph). This report represents Iowa's third record of this species, the first spring record, and the first adult White Ibis in Iowa's history.

**Glossy Ibis:** No longer a review species, there were reports from seven counties this spring: at least one from 1–11 May at Green Island WMA *Jackson* (EB-ph, m.ob.), one on 1 May at Dunbar Sl *Greene* (BCC-ph), one from 1–3 May at Moeckley Prairie *Polk* (AB-ph, m.ob.), 1–2 from 4–7 May at Amana Lily L *Iowa* (JF),

one on 5 May at Little Storm L *Buena Vista* (DSi-ph), one on 5 May at Bays Branch WMA *Guthrie* (SSP), one on 14 and 16 May at Lower Morse L *Wright* (SJD-ph), and one on 20 May at Riverton WMA *Fremont* (Gerald Giesecking-ph).

**White-faced Ibis:** One on 11 Apr at Little Storm L *Buena Vista* was first (DSi-ph). It was a terrific spring for this species, with reports made in 31 counties. A high of 45 was 6 May at Dunbar Sl *Greene* (CD-ph).

**Turkey Vulture:** High: 200 on 30 May at Colfax WMA *Jasper* (Dana Bohan).

**Osprey:** First was 20 Mar at AHHP *Story* (Ann-Elizabeth Barnes). For the 4th consecutive year, the high count was at AHHP *Story*, with 6 being reported 19, 21, and 27 Apr (WO).

**Golden Eagle:** A mediocre spring for this species, with reports from just four counties. An immature was spotted 2 Mar in Waterloo *Black Hawk* (TGS), an adult was reported 4 Mar in *Jackson* (KJM, MR), one from 19–28 Mar at Green Island WMA *Jackson* (Jacqueline Simon-pietri, TM), one from 26 Mar–11 Apr at Rice L *Worth* (VJP-ph, MH, JK-ph), and one on 27 Mar at Sweet M *Bremer* (DTM-ph).

**Northern Harrier:** Only four reports were noted after 15 May, with 3 on 29 May at Hayden Prairie *Howard* being likely breeders (Patty Trnka).

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** Numbers peaked in late Apr, with highs of 6 being 22 Apr in *Decatur* (BAB) and *Polk* (AB). One on 18 May at Hickory Hills P *Tama* was last (Kris/

Craig Rash, Bruce/Linda Plakke, DTM).

**Cooper's Hawk:** Highs of 4 were 15 Mar in *Johnson* (KT Long) and 22 Apr at Little Storm L *Buena Vista* (DSi).



Swainson's Hawk, Rock Creek State Park, Jasper, 18 April 2022. Photograph by Ken Saunders II, Grinnell, IA.

**Northern Goshawk:** No reports.

**Bald Eagle:** A high of 156 was 20 Mar at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB).

**Mississippi Kite:** Between 2 to 6 were reported around their typical breeding grounds in *Polk* beginning on 9 May and continuing through the spring (RJT, JB). One on 21 May was in *Johnson* (Jason McCurdy-ph, Nick Benson), while one on 22 May was present at established breeding grounds at Memorial P *Wapello* (TM).

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** Reported in an increasing number of counties for at least the 4th consecutive year, observations were in 40 counties. Also for the 4th consecutive year was a high count of 3, with this report being 1 May at Geode SP *Henry* (SBi). An immature from 2 to 6 Mar in *Dickinson* (ET) was notable, as this species is irregular in northwest Iowa.

**Broad-winged Hawk:** One on 10 Apr in *Polk* was first (AB). Amazingly, the top 17 counts were between 22 to 23 Apr, with the highest being 450 on 22 Apr *Marion* (JaJ).

**Swainson's Hawk:** First was 3 Apr at Quarry Springs P *Jasper* (KVS, SCS). For the 2nd consecutive spring, a high of 50 birds was reported, with this count being 4 May at Waubonsie SP *Fremont* (JLF). Last was 27 May in *O'Brien* (LMoph). Astoundingly, this spring was even better than last, and this species was observed in 43 counties. Reports of this species in counties along the Mississippi River are typically few and far between, but this spring there were three reports! The migratory range of this species will be worth monitoring in the coming years.

**Red-tailed Hawk:** A high of 25 was 22 Apr in *Decatur* (BAB).

**Rough-legged Hawk:** This species did not linger as long into spring compared to the previous two years, with the last being singles on 25 Apr in both Little Storm L *Buena Vista* (DSi-ph) and *Worth* (Alex Sundvall).

**FERRUGINOUS HAWK:** One on 15 Apr at Owego Wetland Complex *Woodbury* (\*BFH-details) was the first spring record since 2009 (Keene 2009).

**Barn Owl:** The first spring report since 2019 (Langan 2019), one was present from 16 Apr to 7 May at the Iowa Raptor Center *Johnson* (Ryan Anthony, m.ob.).

**Eastern Screech Owl:** Reported in 12 counties, a high of 3 was 4 Mar in *Jackson* (KJM, MR).

**Great Horned Owl:** A high of 8 was 24 Mar at Princeton WMA *Scott* (KJM).

**Snowy Owl:** Two reports: one from 1 – 2 Mar in *Dickinson* (ET, m.ob.) and one on 22 Mar in *Tama* (Will Hanstedt-ph).



*Snowy Owl, South of Superior, Dickinson, 1 March 2022. Photograph by Ed Thelen, Spirit Lake, IA.*

**Barred Owl:** Highs of 5 were 24 Mar at Princeton WMA *Scott* (KJM) and 27 Mar in *Story* (EEO).

**Long-eared Owl:** A stellar spring, with reports in eight counties. A high of 2 was 1 Mar at Saylorville Res *Polk* (DCH). A late report of one was 26 Apr at Oak Grove & Big Sioux P *Sioux* (Kendall Van Zanten-details).

**Short-eared Owl:** Reported in 12 counties, it was a superb spring. Highs of 6 were 10 Mar in *Mahaska* (Jane Hedge) and 19 Apr at Hantontown Sl *Worth* (Ryan Harr *fide* DCH). One on 20 May near Echo Valley SP *Fayette* (Kyle Slifka-ph) may be attempting to breed.

**Northern Saw-whet Owl:** Reported in three counties: one holdout from winter at Saylorville Res *Polk* that was last observed 14 Mar (RLC, m.ob.), 6 on 4 Mar in *Jackson* (KJM, MR), and one on 5 Mar at Leopold

*Woods Story* (PMi).

**Belted Kingfisher:** A high of 4 was 22 Apr along the South Skunk R *Trail Story* (CDB).

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** A high of 9 was 7 May at Princeton WMA *Scott* (SMF).

**Northern Flicker:** Highs of 20 were 17 and 19 Apr at AHHP *Story* (WO) and 21 Apr at Saylorville Res *Polk* (Ryan Weaver).

**Pileated Woodpecker:** Reported in western Iowa in *Harrison*, *Pottawattamie*, and *Fremont*.



*Barred Owl, Red Rock Reservoir, Marion, 1 March 2022. Photograph by Ken Saunders II, Grinnell, IA.*

**Merlin:** Reported in twice as many counties, 32, as last spring, it was a fantastic season. A late individual on 16 May at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* was last (Bruce Pratt).

**Peregrine Falcon:** Observed in 31 counties, a high of 2 was reported many times.

**Prairie Falcon:** An exceptional spring, with three reports: one on 26





*Greater White-fronted Geese, Lake Darling, Washington, 6 March 2022. Photograph by Julie Johnston, Packwood, IA.*



*Redheads, Otter Creek Marsh WMA, Tama, 20 March 2022. Photograph by Ken Saunders II, Grinnell, IA.*



*Sora, McHugh Wetlands, Hamilton, 4 May 2022. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.*



*American Avocet, Rock Creek State Park, Jasper, 26 April 2022. Photograph by Ken Saunders II, Grinnell, IA.*



*American Golden-Plover, Terry Trueblood RA, Johnson, 12 May 2022. Photograph by Brandon Caswell, Marion, IA.*



*Ruddy Turnstone, Saylorville Reservoir, Polk, 20 May 2022. Photograph by Douglas Harr, Ogden, IA.*



*Stilt Sandpipers, Terry Trueblood RA, Johnson, 19 May 2022. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*



*Dunlin, Storm Lake, Buena Vista, 21 April 2022. Photograph by Dana Siefer, Storm Lake, IA.*



*Short-billed Dowitchers, McHugh Wetlands, Hamilton, 6 May 2022. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.*



*Wilson's Phalarope, McHugh Wetlands, Hamilton, 4 May 2022. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.*



*Common Tern, Storm Lake, Iowa, 27 May 2022. Photograph by Dana Siefer, Storm Lake, IA.*



*Osprey, Quarry Springs Park, Jasper, 2 April 2022. Photograph by Christopher A Knisley, Colfax, IA.*





*Northern Harrier, Dunbar Slough, Greene, 1 April 2022. Photograph by Douglas Harr, Ogden, IA.*



*Pileated Woodpecker, Keosauqua, Van Buren, 10 April 2022. Photograph by Clayton Will, Madrid, IA.*



*White-eyed Vireo, Lake MacBride SP, Johnson, 8 May 2022. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*



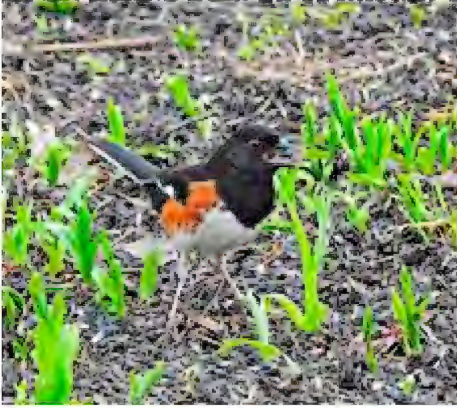
*Red-eyed Vireo, Coralville Reservoir, Johnson, 9 May 2022. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*



*Marsh Wren, Xavier Ave / Brenton Slough, Dallas, 6 May 2022. Photograph by Merle G. Hall, Granger, IA.*



*Northern Mockingbird, Spirit Lake, Dickinson, 11 May 2022. Photograph by Ed Thelen, Spirit Lake, IA.*



*Eastern Towhee, Dakota City, Humboldt, 30 April 2022. Photograph by Clayton Will, Madrid, IA.*



*Orchard Oriole, Saylorville Reservoir, Polk, 16 May 2022. Photograph by Ron Goodman, Ankeny, IA.*



*Prothonotary Warbler, Mount Sterling, Van Buren, 30 April 2022. Photograph by Julie Johnston, Packwood, IA.*



*Kentucky Warbler, Hanging Rock Woods, Johnson, 10 May 2022. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*



*Pine Warbler, Walnut Woods State Park, Polk, 28 April 2022. Photograph by Clayton Will, Madrid, IA.*



*Summer Tanager, Spirit Lake, Dickinson, 8 May 2022. Photograph by Ed Thelen, Spirit Lake, IA.*



Mar at Hendrickson M *Story* (WiC-ph, PMi), one on 27 Mar at Chich-aqua Bottoms Greenbelt *Polk* (RJT-ph), and one on 25 Apr, one day off from the 3rd-latest report, in *Floyd* (Alex Sundvall-details).

**Great Crested Flycatcher:** Arriving early, firsts were 24 Apr at Terry Trueblood RA *Johnson* (Andrea Taborsky) and Saylorville Res *Polk* (Neil Bruyere). A high of 12 was 23 May at Washington Access Trail *Black Hawk* (AIB).

**Western Kingbird:** Reported in seven counties, the first was 27 Apr at Saylorville Res *Polk* (DTh). Highs of 3 were 11 May in *Woodbury* (GLV) and 22 May at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB).

**Eastern Kingbird:** Ten reports from 23 Apr represented the firsts. A sensational count of 211 on 28 May at Saylorville Res *Polk* was high (SJD).

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher:** Two reports: one on 25 Apr at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (Logan Melvin-ph) and one on 15 May at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC).

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** Reported in 22 counties, the first was 7 May in *Jasper* (ABu BTh). A high of 3 was 27 May at Christiansen Forest Preserve *Story* (Jonathan Frantz).

**Eastern Wood-Pewee:** One on 5 May at Scott County P *Scott* was first (RAS). A high of 14 was 14 May at Lacey-Keosauqua SP *Van Buren* (JG).

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** An early arrival on 8 May in *Black Hawk* was a day off from the 3rd-earliest record (AKO). This was perhaps the best spring on record for this species in Iowa's history, as it was detected

in 38 counties. A high of 6 was 26 May at ERVP *Story* (Nathan Pieplow).

**Acadian Flycatcher:** One on 8 May at Nine Eagles SP *Decatur* was first (LW). Reported in 27 counties, one on 16 and 17 May at Smith WA *Kossuth* was notable (JNw, AaB). Highs of 5 were 18 May at Peggy's Trail *Story* (SSP) and 28 May at Shimek SF *Lee* (BiB-ph).

**Alder Flycatcher:** One on 10 May at Sycamore Access *Polk* was first (AB-details). A terrific high of 23 was 21 May at ERVP *Story* (SSP).

**Willow Flycatcher:** Firsts were 7 May at Sycamore Bottoms *Johnson* (MHB, JBo) and Princeton WMA *Scott* (SMF). A high of 9 was 23 May at Hawkeye WMA *Johnson* (JKe).

**Least Flycatcher:** Firsts were 28 Apr at Duck Creek P *Scott* (SuS-ph), ERVP *Story* (Karl Grotheer), and Peggy's Trail *Story* (WiC). A high of 24 was 8 May at Brown's Woods *Polk* (RJT).

**Eastern Phoebe:** One on 15 Mar in *Johnson* was first (Adam Ciha).

**SAY'S PHOEBE:** A great spring with three reports: one on 27 Apr in *Polk* (\*JB-ph) one on 3 May at Ringneck WA *Grundy* (\*CPL-ph, \*WV-ph, \*TM-ph, \*AIB), and one on 3 May at Moeckley Prairie *Polk* (\*SJD). These represented the first spring records since 2016 (Harms 2016).

**White-eyed Vireo:** Two on 30 Apr at Shimek SF *Lee* were first (SBi), while a high of 5 was 28 May at the same location (BiB). Reported in 12 counties, reports from Mines of Spain SRA *Dubuque* on 18 and 27 May (DAS, BiB) and *Boone* on 25

May (Tyler Grant-recording) were notable.

**Bell's Vireo:** First was 30 Apr at Duck Creek P *Scott* (Edward Pullen). A high of 9 was 22 May at Eddyville Sand Prairie P *Wapello* (JG).

**Yellow-throated Vireo:** Arriving early, firsts were 23 Apr at Nine Eagles SP *Decatur* (BAB) and the Sayles Yard *Scott* (RAS, Jo Anne Sayles). A high of 10 was 14 May at Lacey-Keosauqua SP *Van Buren* (JG).

**Blue-headed Vireo:** Firsts were 23 Apr in *Johnson* (Jason McCurdy, Nick Benson), Sayles Yard *Scott* (RAS), and Cone M *Louisa* (DGU). A high of 20 was 8 May at Brown's Woods *Polk* (RJT). Last was 25 May at Credit Island P *Scott* (RAS).

**Philadelphia Vireo:** The first was 7 May at L MacBride *Johnson* (JKe). Highs of 3 were 15 May in *Marion* (EKe) and McFarland P *Story* (Curt Fisher). A handful of reports on 28 May marked the last.

**Warbling Vireo:** First was 21 Apr in Sayles Yard *Scott* (RAS, Jo Anne Sayles). A high of 22 was 18 May at Ringneck M *Clinton* (KJM).

**Red-eyed Vireo:** Arriving early this spring, reports from 24 Apr at Sayles Yard *Scott* (RAS) and Hertz Family Woods and Nature Preserve *Story* (ABu, BTh) tied the record-early observations. A high of 39 was 19 May at Sugar Creek Audubon Nature Sanctuary *Jasper* (CPL).

**Loggerhead Shrike:** A good spring, with reports from nine counties. One on 27 Mar at Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt *Polk* was first (RJT-ph).

**Northern Shrike:** Reports of singles in eight counties. Lasts were

2 Apr in *Story* at AHHP (ABu, BTh) and near Bob Pyle M (EEO).

**FISH CROW:** Two reports: one on 11 Apr at the traditional location, Saylorville Res *Polk* (\*JB-recording) and one on 1 May along the Mississippi R in Davenport, *Scott* (\*Britt Vickstrom-details).

**Bank Swallow:** A day off from the 3rd-earliest record, one on 12 Apr at AHHP *Story* was first (WO). A high count of 200 was 11 May in *Woodbury* (GLV).

**Tree Swallow:** Two on 16 Mar in *Jackson* were first (EB). A high of 800 was 13 Apr at Upper Mississippi NWR *Jackson* (DAS).

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow:** Numbers were substantial this spring, with highs of 100 on 24 Apr at Prairie P *Woodbury* (RaW) and 16 May at Maquoketa Caves SP *Jackson* (Kari Paul).

**Purple Martin:** Two on 26 Mar at Heron Bend Conservation Area *Lee* were first (Sharon Somers). Highs of 50 were 23 Apr at Solon Rec Nature Area *Johnson* (MDR) and 19 May in *Louisa* (TE).

**Barn Swallow:** One on 30 Apr at L Sugema *Van Buren* was first (JLF). A high of 300 was 1 May at Willow Sl *Mills* (Ted Wolff).

**Cliff Swallow:** First was 13 Apr at Saylorville WMA *Dallas* (KP). A high of 300 was 9 May at Hawkeye WMA *Johnson* (DH).

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** First was 28 Mar in *Bremer* (Kris/Craig Rash). Numbers were much higher this spring than last, with a high of 50 being 22 Apr at ERVP *Story* (EEO). Last was 20 May at Hartman Reserve *Black Hawk* (NA).

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** A

high of 42 was 4 Apr at Corriel Nature Reserve *Muscatine* (LGR, Kenneth Lowder). Several reports from 6 May were last.

**Cedar Waxwing:** Highs of 100 were 2 Apr in *Ringgold* (Gabriel Runyon) and 6 Apr in *Appanoose* (J.G. Chapman, TMC).

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** Reported statewide in nearly half of the counties, a high of 5 was 29 Apr at Scott County P *Scott* (Edward Pullen). Continuing into mid-May, one on 16 May at Jefferson County P *Jefferson* was last (TMC).

**Brown Creeper:** Most departed by the first week of May, as only three reports were made after mid-May.

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** A high of 20 was 18 May at Palisades-Keppler SP *Linn* (JE).

**House Wren:** Arriving a week later than the previous few years, the first was 15 Apr at Green Island WMA *Jackson* (TM). Just as last spring, highs were at ERVP in *Story*, with 45 being reported on 10, 11, and 15 May (SSP).

**Winter Wren:** Reported in 18 counties, a high of 3 was 8 Apr at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (Logan Melvin). A late bird on 18 May at Ledges SP *Boone* was last (Robert Kapmeyer).

**Sedge Wren:** Firsts were 23 Apr at Port Louisa NWR *Louisa* (SBI), Colo Bogs *Story* (EEO), and Stone SP *Woodbury* (RaW). A high of 20 on 10 May at Union Sl *Kossuth* (Lindsey Gapinski) was four times larger than the high of last spring.

**Marsh Wren:** Arriving early this year, the first was 9 Apr at Wickiup Hill County P *Linn* (Andy Scanlon).

A high of 12 was 16 May at Union Sl *Kossuth* (AaB, JNw).

**Carolina Wren:** Seven reports split between *Pottawattamie* and *Woodbury* represented the most westerly reports.

**BEWICK'S WREN:** Not sighted at Argyle Junkyard *Lee*, the traditional location, the lone report was 7 May at a residence in *Dallas* (\*JB-ph).

**Gray Catbird:** Early this year, one on 21 Apr at Sayles Yard *Scott* was first (RAS). A high of 36 was 14 May at Deere Dike *Dubuque* (KJAB).

**Brown Thrasher:** First was 20 Mar at Donnelly Bottoms *Marion* (EKe). A high of 7 was 25 Apr at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (JKe).

**Northern Mockingbird:** Reported in 14 counties, one on 11 May in *Dickinson* was the most northerly (ET). One on 1 Apr at Sun Valley L *Ringgold* was first (DTh, RLC).

**Eastern Bluebird:** A high of 16 was 20 Apr at Saylorville Res *Polk* (TJD).

**Townsend's Solitaire:** One or two holdouts from winter at Peterson P *Story* continued through 24 Mar and were reported by many (Moore 2022)

**Veery:** Arriving early this spring, one on 1 May at Green Island WMA *Jackson* tied the 2nd-earliest report (TM-ph, EB). Highs of 3 were 8 May in *Polk* (JB) and 18 May at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (BCC, JKe)

**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** An early arrival on 25 Apr at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RJT-ph) tied the 3rd-earliest record. A high of 9 was 8 May in *Polk* (JB). One on 27 May at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* was last (JBo).

**Swainson's Thrush:** One on 22 Apr at ERVP *Story* was first (EEO-details). Highs of 45 were 8 May in *Polk* (JB) and 18 May in *Linn* (JE).

**Hermit Thrush:** First was 30 Mar at Cascade Ravine *Des Moines* (JLF). Numbers were low for a 2nd consecutive spring, with a high of 4 being 21 and 22 and Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (DH, JKe). One on 7 May at Princeton M *Scott* was last (SMF-details).

**Wood Thrush:** A handful of reports from 29 Apr represented the first. A high of 20 was 7 May at Mines of Spain SRA *Dubuque* (Robert Spahn)

**American Robin:** A high of 670 was 2 Mar at Big Bend WA *Dallas* (KP).

**Eurasian Tree Sparrow:** Reported in 33 counties, a high of 40 was 1 May in *Cedar* (Edward Pullen). Reports from *Clay* on 31 Mar (ET) and *Greene* on 10 Apr (CR) were notable.

**House x Eurasian Tree Sparrow:** One was present at AHHP *Story* for the entirety of the spring (WO, SSP).

**American Pipit:** Reported in 17 counties, between 1–5 on 31 Mar at Saylorville Res *Polk* were first (AB, RJT). A high of 23 was 30 Apr at Cedar R Crossing *Johnson* (JKe). Persisting well into May, two on 16 May in *Osceola* were last (ET).

**Purple Finch:** A high of 31 was 1 May at Tom Moon's residence *Black Hawk* (DTM-ph).

**Common Redpoll:** A fantastic spring for this species, with reports from 21 widely scattered counties. Highs of 166 were 9 Mar at Eagle

Point P *Clinton* (KJM) and 94 at 8 Mar at Summit Pits *Clay* (LAS). Last was 21 Apr in *Johnson* (DaR).

**HOARY REDPOLL:** One on 4 Mar at Oakland Cemetery *Johnson* (\*Katy Banning-ph) was the first spring report since 2018 (Harms 2018).

**Red Crossbill:** One on 1 Apr along the Mississippi R *Allamakee* was the lone report (KJM, Tammy Lousaert).

**White-winged Crossbill:** Reported in *Dickinson*, *Franklin*, *Mitchell*, *Story*, and *Woodbury*. A high of 20 was 6 Mar and 19 Mar at Hampton Cemetery *Franklin* (MH, JK-ph, AIB). A female on 26 Mar in *Dickinson* was last (Linda Peterson-ph).

**Pine Siskin:** This species persisted through much of May, with one on 26 May in *Pottawattamie* being last (Dominique De Caprona).

**LESSER GOLDFINCH:** Iowa's first spring record for this species, a male was observed 23 Apr at a residence near Decorah, *Winneshiek* (\*Bill Ohde-details).



Purple Finch, Granger, Dallas, 6 April 2022.  
Photograph by Merle G. Hall, Granger, IA.

**Lapland Longspur:** Reported in 18 counties, a high of 620 was 3



Apr at Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt *Polk* (AB-ph).

**Smith's Longspur:** Reported in only four counties, highs of 30 were at Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt *Polk*; on 28 Mar (DTh, RLC) and 2 Apr (Cory Gregory). Last were 2 on 1 May at the same location (TJD) and *Sioux* (JDJ).

**Snow Bunting:** For the first time since 2016 (Harms 2016), there were no spring reports.

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** One on 27 Apr at Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt *Polk* was first (RJT). A high of 9 was 9 May at the same location (SSP).



*Grasshopper Sparrow, Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt, Polk, 11 May 2022. Photograph by Douglas Harr, Ogden, IA.*

**Lark Sparrow:** One on 16 Apr at Baldwin Farm *Decatur* was first (BAB). A high of 8 was 28 Apr at Peggy's Trail *Story* (WiC).

**Chipping Sparrow:** One on 24 Mar in *Marion* was first (EKe). A terrific high of 200 was 1 May at Graceland P Cemetery *Woodbury* (GLV).

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** One on 21 Apr in *Sioux* was first (Kendall Van Zanten). A high of 15 was 11 May at Oak Grove & Big *Sioux P*

*Sioux* (Kendall Van Zanten).

**Field Sparrow:** One on 12 Mar at Big Creek WMA *Polk* was first (RJT). A high of 15 was 12 May at Conrad Environmental Research Area *Jasper* (Carl Schimmel).

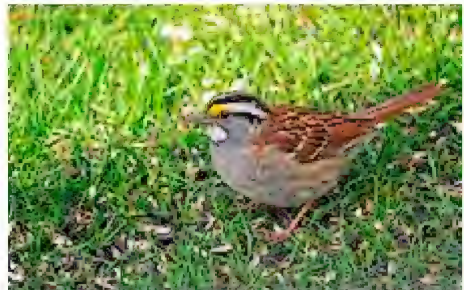
**Fox Sparrow:** Six on 2 Mar at Big Bend WA *Dallas* were first (KP). A high of 34 was 27 Mar at Western Historic Trails Center *Pottawattamie* (Mace Hack). One on 26 Apr at Narrows Preserve *Dickinson* was last (JTi).

**American Tree Sparrow:** A high of 75 was 13 Mar at Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt *Polk* (RJT). One on 28 Apr at Riverside Trail *Black Hawk* was last (Alex Muench-ph).

**Dark-eyed Junco:** A high of 150 was 22 Mar at Winterset Cemetery *Madison* (TNJ). A very late bird on 31 May at Faulkes Heritage Woods *Linn* was last (NPB-ph).

**White-crowned Sparrow:** A high of 20 was 9 Apr at Waubonsie SP *Fremont* (Jacob Cooper, Rebecca Johnson). Persisting late into May, one on 30 May in *Warren* was last (JG-ph).

**Harris's Sparrow:** The top nine counts were in counties along the Missouri R, with a high of 29 on 8 May in *Sioux* (JDJ). A handful of reports on 17 May were last.



*White-throated Sparrow, Granger, Dallas, 27 April 2022. Photograph by Merle G. Hall, Granger IA.*

**White-throated Sparrow:** Low numbers reported, with highs of 65 on 25 Apr at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (Jason Paulios) and 63 on 2 May at Eagle City P *Hardin* (CPL, MKS). One on 22 May in *Dickinson* was last (ET).

**Vesper Sparrow:** Firsts were 26 Mar in *Sioux* (JDJ) and Harmon L *Winnebago* (RAS). Highs of 8 were 31 Mar in Granger, *Dallas* (DCH) and 9 Apr at Cone M *Louisa* (JMc).

**LeConte's Sparrow:** Six reports from six counties, an early arrival on 1 Apr at Cone M *Louisa* was first (TE-ph). A high of 2 was 24 Apr at Princeton WMA *Scott* (William/Gayla Hickerson). One on 9 May at Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt *Polk* was last (SSP).

**Nelson's Sparrow:** Always difficult to find in spring, four reports of singles represented a good season: 13 May at Terry Trueblood RA *Johnson* (Kevin Ripka-details), 20 May at Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt *Polk* (SSP-details), 22 May at St. John's WMA *Harrison* (Carter Oliver-ph *fide* SJD), and 26 May at Little Storm L *Buena Vista* (DSi-ph).

**Henslow's Sparrow:** One on 12 Apr at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* was first (JKe, m.ob.). Reported in 15 counties, highs of 6 were 24 Apr at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (Dana Bohan) and 18 May at Chain-O-Lakes WMA *Linn* (JE).

**Savannah Sparrow:** Numbers bounced back from last spring, with highs of 20 on 24 Apr at Prairie P *Woodbury* (RaW) and 18 on 30 Apr at Cedar R Crossing *Johnson* (JKe).

**Song Sparrow:** For the 3rd consecutive spring, the high was at Deere Dike *Dubuque*, with 56 on 20

Mar being the top count (KJAB).

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** An early arrival on 27 Mar at Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt *Polk* was first (RJT). A high of 25 was 10 May at Peterson P *Story* (EEO). Last were 23 May at AHHP *Story* (Ed Stephens) and Swan Lake SP *Carroll* (Lorinda Hoover).

**Swamp Sparrow:** Highs of 16 were 11 Apr at Hayesville Bend WMA *Keokuk* (SSP) and Black Hawk Mitigation *Black Hawk* (TSS).

**Spotted Towhee:** Two reports: a male on 27 Apr at Kuehn Conservation Area *Dallas* (KP-ph) and a female at Stone SP *Woodbury* (GLV-details).

**Eastern Towhee:** Peaking from late Apr to early May, a high of 20 was 9 May at Mines of Spain SRA *Dubuque* (Robert Spahn).

**Yellow-breasted Chat:** Reported in 14 counties, one on 2 May at Shimek SF *Lee* was first (DP). Highs of 3 were 15 May at the same location (JNw) and 30 May in *Linn* (PMo).



*Yellow-headed Blackbird, McHugh Wetlands, Boone, 19 May 2022. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.*

**Yellow-headed Blackbird:** Three on 7 Apr at Riverton WMA *Fremont* were first (TMC). A high

of 65 was 16 May at Union Slough NWR *Kossuth* (JNw, AaB).

**Bobolink:** Arriving early, the first was 24 Apr at Green Island WMA *Jackson* (EB). Highs of 26 were 14 May at Bloody Run P *Clayton* (Kenneth Kiss) and 21 May at Ringgold WMA *Ringgold* (Dan Cowell).

**Eastern Meadowlark:** Four on 4 Mar in *Des Moines* were first (Kelly Ertz). A high of 35 was 18 May in *Clinton* (KJM)

**Western Meadowlark:** A high count of 19 was 31 Mar in *Pottawattamie* (Ed Hahn, Tim Hahn).

**Orchard Oriole:** Arriving early this year, the 3rd-earliest reports were made with two singles on 23 Apr: Coralville Res *Johnson* (BiB-details) and *Washington* (Adam Ciha-ph). A high of 19 was 10 May in *Monona* (MaH).

**Baltimore Oriole:** One on 22 Apr in North Liberty, *Johnson* (JLF) tied the 3rd-earliest report. A high of 42 was 10 May in *Monona* (MaH).

**Red-winged Blackbird:** A high of 2500 was 20 Mar at Hendrickson M *Story* (EEO).

**Rusty Blackbird:** Firsts were 1 Mar at F.W. Kent P *Johnson* (DH) and 2 at Cone M *Louisa* (JKe). A high of 192 was 24 Mar in *Clinton* (KJM). Several unsubstantiated records were made in May, and many were reported in the last few days of Apr. Two reports on 29 Apr tied the record-late report: 4 at Black Hawk Mitigation *Black Hawk* (TSS-details) and one in *Johnson* (MMA-ph).

**Brewer's Blackbird:** Reported in 23 counties, first was 9 Mar at Sycamore Access *Johnson* (JKe). A high of 20 was 27 Mar at Corriell

Nature Preserve *Johnson* (Jason Paulios). Last was 2 May in *Polk* (AB).

**Common Grackle:** A high of 3500 was 18 Mar in *Marion* (JaJ).

**Great-tailed Grackle:** Reported in 26 counties, with the first being 16 Mar in Ogden, *Boone* (DCH). Highs of 8 were 22 Apr at Kiowa M *Sac* (DSi) and 15 May in *Decatur* (BAB). A report from 9 Apr in *Clayton* was surprising, as this species is rarely reported in northeast IA (Cinda Crossley-details).

**Ovenbird:** Firsts were 24 Apr at Sayles Yard *Scott* (RAS), Shimek SF *Lee* (SBi), and Lacey-Keosauqua SP *Van Buren* (Lilah Anderson, Sean MacDonald). Highs of 10 were 15 May at Stephens SF *Lucas* (BiB, PDBS), 15 May in *Marion* (EKe), and both 21 and 28 May at Shimek SF *Lee* (TM, AB).

**Worm-eating Warbler:** A fantastic spring, with singles reported in six counties: 25 Apr at Peggy's Trail *Story* (WiC-ph, Joseph McGovern, m.ob.), 27 Apr at Sayles Yard *Scott* (RAS-details), 2 May at Wildcat Cave Access *Hardin* (CPL-ph, MKS), 7–29 May at Shimek SF *Van Buren* (JG, m.ob.), 13 May at Kuehn Conservation Area *Dallas* (KP-ph), and 19 to 29 May at Wildcat Den SP *Muscatine* (Susan Nixon-ph, m.ob.).



*Louisiana Waterthrush*, Coralville Reservoir, Johnson, 8 May 2022. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.

**Louisiana Waterthrush:** One on 6 Apr at Scott County P *Scott* was first (Ryan Christensen). Reported in 29 counties from *Allamakee* to *Woodbury*, a high of 7 was 30 May at Wildcat Den SP *Muscatine* (BiB-ph).

**Northern Waterthrush:** One on 23 Apr at Deere Dike *Dubuque* was first (DAS). A high of 12 was 8 May at Sullivan SI Road *Des Moines* (Michael Willison). A singing bird on 27 May at Boone Forks WMA *Hamilton* was last (CPL).

**Golden-winged Warbler:** One on 3 May in *Hamilton* was first (Kayla Shaw). This species was scarce, being present in good numbers for only about a week in mid-May. A high of 6 was 9 May at Lacey-Keosauqua SP *Van Buren* (TB). Last was 24 May at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (Ryan McDonald).

**Blue-winged Warbler:** Firsts were 1 May in *Linn* (PMo) and Lacey-Keosauqua SP *Van Buren* (TB). The high was at Shimek SF *Lee* for the third consecutive spring, with 7 on 15 May being the best (JNw).

**Black-and-white Warbler:** Several reports from 22 Apr marked the first. The top three counts were in *Story*, with 17 on 10 May and 12 on 8 May at ERVP (SSP) and 15 on 9 May at Pammel Woods (ESE). This species persisted through May.

**Prothonotary Warbler:** Arriving a week earlier than last spring, one on 23 Apr at Nine Eagles SP *Decatur* tied the 3rd-earliest record (BAB-details, LW-details). A high of 12 was 8 May along Sullivan SI Road *Des Moines* (Michael Willison).

**Tennessee Warbler:** Three on 24 Apr at Lacey-Keosauqua SP *Van Buren* were first (Lilah Anderson,

Sean MacDonald). Highs were 55 on 15 May at Nine Eagles SP *Decatur* (BAB) and 50 on 18 May at Ambrose A. Call SP *Kossuth* (JNw, AaB-recording).

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** First was 20 Apr at AHHP *Story* (WO). Peaking late Apr to early May, a high of 12 was 4 May at Prairie P *Woodbury* (Kevin Kerr, Marla Kerr). Last was 23 May at Dordt Prairie *Sioux* (LMO-ph).

**Nashville Warbler:** Arriving 23 Apr, firsts were in *Buchanan* (Dan Cohen-ph) and *Polk* (Kristin Esche-ph). All of the top 15 counts were made between 8 to 10 May, with a terrific high of 70 on 8 May at ERVP *Story* (SSP). Last was 29 May at Phelps P *Winneshiek* (Andy Paulios).

**Connecticut Warbler:** Reported in 11 counties, firsts were 14 May at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RJT-ph) and Peggy's Trail *Story* (WiC-ph, Mary Jane Carlson, Marissa Carlson, m.ob.). All reports involved singles except for a report of 3 on 27 May at Grammar Grove WA *Marshall* (MP). Last was 28 May at Black Hawk Mitigation *Black Hawk* (TSS, Bruce/Linda Plakke).

**Mourning Warbler:** Firsts were 8 May at Sugar Bottom WA *Johnson* (MHB-ph) and Nine Eagles SP *Decatur* (LW). A stellar high of 9 was 19 May at Hartman Reserve *Black Hawk* (NA). Last was 29 May at Ashworth and Greenwood P *Polk* (DD).

**Kentucky Warbler:** Two on 1 May at Lacey-Keosauqua SP *Van Buren* were first (TB). Reported in 22 counties, reports in *Hamilton* and *Woodbury* were notable.



**Common Yellowthroat:** A male on 23 Apr at Arney Bend WA *Marshall* was first (MP, Andy Spellman-ph). Highs of 40 were on 18 May at Wickiup Hill County P *Linn* (Emma Hodges) and 18 May at Ringneck M *Clinton* (KJM).

**Hooded Warbler:** Reported in five counties, two males in *Cerro Gordo* were the most northerly: 5 May along West State Street (BVL-details) and 10 May at Parker's Woods (BVL-details).



Hooded Warbler, Ledges State Park, Boone, 24 April 2022. Photograph by Douglas Harr, Ogden, IA.

**American Redstart:** Five on 30 Apr at Cone M *Louisa* were first (DGu). The top two counts were at Mines of Spain SRA *Dubuque* with 75 on 9 May (Robert Spahn) and 59 on 14 May (TM).

**Cape May Warbler:** Early this year, one on 30 Apr at Princeton WMA *Scott* became the 3rd-earliest record (SMF-details). Reported in 24 counties, no more than 2 were reported during a single outing. One on 19 May at Pikes Peak SP *Clayton* was last (Cathy Beck).

**Cerulean Warbler:** First was 28 Apr at Ashworth and Greenwood P *Polk* (RJT-ph). A high of 6 at Yel-

low River SF *Allamakee* was half the high of last spring (Kathleen Carlyle-ph). Reported in 15 counties, observations in *Story* and *Webster* were notable.

**Northern Parula:** One on 12 Apr at Geode SP *Henry* was first (Kelly Ertz). A high of 8 was 11 May at Peggy's Trail *Story* (PMi, WiC).

**Magnolia Warbler:** First was 2 May at Coralville Res *Johnson* (Kyle Varon, MMA). A high of 9 was reported four times, and seven reports on 27 May indicated the last.

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** Four reports on 8 May were first. Highs of 4 were 15 May at Nine Eagles SP *Decatur* (BAB) and 22 May in *Worth* (VJP). Last was 23 May at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SCS).

**Blackburnian Warbler:** Firsts were 30 Apr at Dickson Timber *Carroll* (JB) and 2 at Scott County P *Scott* (Tammy Loussaert). A high of 8 was 18 May at Ambrose A. Call SP *Kossuth* (JNw, AaB). One on 29 May at Hawkeye WMA *Johnson* was last (Jason Paulios).



Cape May Warbler, Spirit Lake, Dickinson, 4 May 2022. Photograph by Ed Thelen, Spirit Lake, IA.

**Yellow Warbler:** A bevy of widespread reports from 23 Apr marked the first. Highs were 40 on 10

May at Rock Creek SP *Jasper* (CPL) and 39 on 16 May at Big Sioux RA *Sioux* (Daniel Swier).

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** A day off from the 3rd-earliest record, one on 2 May at Hawkeye WMA *Johnson* was first (LQ-details, Terri Mac-ey-details). A high of 20 was 14 May at Parker's Woods *Cerro Gordo* (MH, JK). Lasts were 28 May at Black Hawk Mitigation *Black Hawk* (TSS, Bruce/Linda Plakke) and Mines of Spain SRA *Dubuque* (DAS).

**Blackpoll Warbler:** An early male on 23 Apr at the Iowa Raptor Center *Johnson* became the 3rd-earliest record (Nicholas Timmer-details, BiB-ph). One on 29 May at Sayles Yard *Scott* was last (RAS).

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** Two reports of males from 2 May tied the 2nd-earliest report: one at Prairie Lakes P *Black Hawk* (DGE-details) and one at Coralville Res *Johnson* continued through 4 May (MHB-ph, m.ob.). A third report was 8 May at a residence in *Johnson* (Richard Randall-details).



*Palm Warbler, East Okoboji Lake, Dickinson, 25 April 2022. Photograph by Ed Thelen, Spirit Lake, IA.*

**Palm Warbler:** An early arrival on 17 Apr at Deere Dike *Dubuque* was first (KJAB-ph). A high of 65

was 1 May at Hawkeye WMA *Johnson* (JKe). One on 24 May at Wildcat Den SP *Muscatine* was last (RAS).

**Pine Warbler:** First was 24 Apr at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (JKe). A superb spring, with reports in 17 counties. Highs of 3 were 4 (DaR) and 6 (MMA-ph) May at Hickory Hill P *Johnson*. Reports in *Carroll* and *Pocahontas* were the most westerly.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** Many holdouts from winter were observed in early Mar, with one on 1 Mar at Ames Municipal Cemetery *Story* being first (SSP). Lingered throughout May, one on 30 May in Sayles Yard *Scott* was last (RAS).

**Yellow-throated Warbler:** First was 12 Apr at MacBride Nature Area *Johnson* (NPB). A fantastic high of 8 was 24 Apr at Eagle Point P *Dubuque* (TM-ph).

**PRAIRIE WARBLER:** Observed annually since spring 2017, six reports from five counties were accepted this year. Arriving early, the record-early report was made on 26 Apr at Devil's Glen *Scott* (\*SuS-ph). Additional reports included one on 5 May in *Jones* (\*KaD-ph), one on 14 May at Wildcat Den SP *Muscatine* (\*Grant Askren-ph), one on 28 May at their breeding grounds at Shimek SF *Lee* (\*BiB), and one on 30 May at Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt *Polk* (\*AB-ph, \*BVL).

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** Firsts were 27 Apr in *Linn* (JE) and Soehren Farm *Floyd* (Eric Soehren). Numbers were lackluster, with a high of 5 being 8 May at Emma McCarthy Lee P *Story* (ESE). Last was 27 May in *Emmet* (Nathan Shay).

**Canada Warbler:** Arriving ear-

ly, two reports on 8 May tied the 3rd-earliest record: one at Sayles Yard *Scott* (RAS-details) and one at Colyn WMA *Lucas* (TNJ-details). A high of 7 was 19 May at Hartman Reserve *Black Hawk* (NA), while one on 29 May in *Black Hawk* was last (Margie Smith).

**Wilson's Warbler:** One on 4 May at Sayles Yard *Scott* was first (RAS), while a high of 8 was 19 May at Hartman Reserve *Black Hawk* (NA). Six reports on 27 May marked the last.

**Summer Tanager:** A female on 25 Apr at Starr's Cave *Des Moines* was first (SBi). A high of 7 was 14 May at Lacey-Keosauqua SP *Van Buren* (JG). An immature male on 8 May in *Dickinson* was notable (ET).

**Scarlet Tanager:** A female on 28 Apr at Duck Creek P *Scott* was first (SuS-ph). Four counts of 6 were highs.

#### **WESTERN TANAGER:**

Three separate report of males: one on 29 Apr in Dakota City, *Humboldt* (\*JAN-ph), one on 30 Apr in *Polk* (\*Sara Pasma-ph), and one on 30 May in *Cherokee* became the 3rd-latest spring record (\*Ward Webster-ph). This is the fourth consecutive spring with records of this species.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** A trio of reports on 23 Apr indicated the first. A high of 33 was 10 May in Brees Yard *Polk* (AB-ph).

**BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK:** Two reports of males: one at a residence on 1 May in *Boone* (\*Greg Thede-ph) and one on 13 May at a residence in *Dickinson* (\*ET-ph). These were the first spring reports since 2016 (Harms 2016).

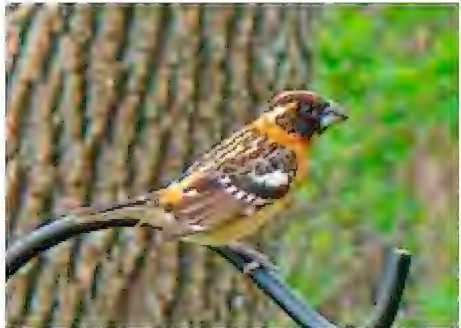
**Blue Grosbeak:** Arriving early, 1–2 on 29 Apr at Lake Keomah SP *Mahaska* were first (DCJ-ph, CPL, MKS). Reported in 15 counties, a high of 5 was 21 May at Schildberg RA *Cass* (Craig Hensley).

**Lazuli Bunting** No longer a review species, two reports were made this spring: a male found by Hannah Leabhart and Connor Zhang on 1 May was again observed on 2 May at Saylorville Res *Polk* (CW-ph), becoming the 3rd-earliest state record. An additional bird was found 16 May at Pike's Timber *Wright* (SJD).

**Indigo Bunting:** Arriving early, firsts were 23 Apr at Sullivan St Road *Des Moines* (Bruce Pratt), Sayles Yard *Scott* (RAS, Jo Anne Sayles), and 2 at Geode SP *Henry* (Bruce Pratt). Highs of 20 were 18 May at Wickiup Hill County P *Linn* (JE) and 19 May at Fox Forest RA *Poweshiek* (Cainrl Schimmel).

**PAINTED BUNTING:** Two reports of males: one on 22 Apr in Oskaloosa, *Mahaska* (\*Pam White-ph) and one on 30 Apr in Bettendorf, *Scott* (\*Forrest Stonedahl-ph).

**Dickcissel:** Firsts were 30 Apr in *Greene* (BCC) and 3 at Kellerton WMA *Ringgold* (DAS).



*Black-headed Grosbeak, Welsh Lake, Dickinson, 13 May 2022. Photograph by Ed Thelen, Spirit Lake, IA.*

## COMMENTS

An exceptional effort was put forth by birders across the state, and a total of 314 bird species were reported from March–May, beating last spring’s total of 312. The fewest reports came from *Humboldt*, *Audubon*, and *Emmet*, respectively, while the most reports came from *Polk*, *Story*, and *Johnson*, respectively. *Polk* totaled 276 species this spring, the highest total of the season. *Johnson* recorded 261 species while *Story* trailed with 251 species.

Thanks to all of those who documented their rare bird observations. As evidenced by the 18 total accidental or casual species that were substantiated by the Records Committee, a substantial number of documentations were completed by birders on the IOU website. I would like to remind everyone to familiarize themselves with the early and late dates for migrant species. For those that submit checklists to eBird, reports of species at an early or late date can trigger a filter that flags the observation. If anyone experiences this, it would be advisable to include a considerable number of details with such an observation—especially if it falls within one of the top three earliest or latest dates for a species during spring. There were dozens of reports submitted that were observed around the record-early or late dates, but many could not be considered due to a lack of sufficient, or any, details about the observation. Please include proper details and any media, if available, with early or late date observations.

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# Report of the Records Committee for 2021

*Paul Hertzel*

On 20 May 2021, Iowa's first Swainson's Warbler was heard singing in East River Valley Park in Ames, initially by Eric Ollie, and subsequently by many birders who photographed the bird and obtained video and sound recordings (Ollie and Patterson 2021). This addition brings Iowa's checklist to 431 species.

Other changes to the checklist occurred because of actions of the American Ornithological Society (AOS). The name Mew Gull was changed to Short-billed Gull and the species also acquired a revised scientific name. Both cormorants, Crested Caracara, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and Sedge Wren also were given new scientific names. Taxonomic re-orderings involving 16 families of birds were included with those changes, all published in the 62nd Supplement to the *Check-list of North American Birds* (Chesser et al. 2021).

In 2021, the status of four species was updated. The status of a species is a measure of the frequency it is encountered in the state. Species rarely found, that is, recorded in 3 or fewer of the last 10 years are classified as *Accidental*. Species recorded in 3–8 of the last 10 years may be classified as *Casual*, but there is a year of overlap with *Accidental* status so that some discretion may be applied to the assignment. Species recorded in 7 or more of the last 10 years may be classified as *Regular*, but again, there is overlap with the *Casual* designation. At the annual meeting of the Records Committee conducted online on 7 November 2021, the status of each of the species Roseate Spoonbill, Ferruginous Hawk, Black-billed Magpie, and Glossy Ibis was changed. Roseate Spoonbill, which had been *Accidental*, was reclassified *Casual* since it has been recorded in 4 of the last 10 years. Both Ferruginous Hawk and Black-billed Magpie were reclassified from *Regular* to *Casual* status since they have been recorded in only 6 of the last 10 years. Glossy Ibis, which had been *Casual*, was reclassified *Regular*.

## 2021 RECORDS

Sixty-six records were reviewed by the Committee in 2021 with 60 of these records accepted and 6 not accepted. The Committee appreciates the efforts of those who document Iowa's bird life and regards each record as deserving thoughtful, careful treatment in its review.

Each record reviewed is assigned a six-digit number (year and sequence number), which is included in this report for future reference. Records are classified as follows: A = Accepted (-S = specimen, -P = photograph, -R = recording, -D = written documentation only) and NA = Not Accepted. To be accepted, a record must receive 7 votes on the initial review or more than 5 votes on a subsequent review. The subcategories A-S, A-P, and A-R reflect the majority's opinion and indicate that physical evidence supports the identifica-

tion. References to *IBL* are the page of the Field Reports or a special note in *Iowa Bird Life* where the record is cited or includes a photo of the bird itself. Published notes and previous citations may contain more details than what is contained here.

## 2021 RECORDS ACCEPTED

**Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*): A single adult was photographed at Hawkeye WMA *Johnson* 27 April (2021-19, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 91:108); three were at Discovery Park *Muscatine* 6, 7 June (2021-38, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 91:161); a summer bird was at Prairie Lakes Park Cedar Falls *Black Hawk* on 8 June (2021-39, **A-D** 7-0, *IBL* 91:108); a second bird of the summer season was found on a private wetland in *Story* on 28 July (2021-44, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 91:161); two individuals were at Kettleson-Hogsback WPA *Dickinson* on 2 August (2021-46, **A-D** 7-0, *IBL* 92:6).

**Brant** (*Branta bernicla*): A single *B. b. nigricans* was found in a small flock of Greater White-fronted Geese at Pintail Wetlands *Hardin* 23, 24 April (2021-12, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 91:108). Of the dozen or so accepted records, the only other spring record was one at Clear Lake in March 2002.

**Eurasian Wigeon** (*Mareca penelope*): A male was east of Davenport at Lock & Dam 14 on the Mississippi River *Scott* 14–17 March (2021-09, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 91:109); another male was at Markham's Pond WA *Mitchell* 27 March (2021-11, **A-D** 7-0, *IBL* 91:109).

**Mottled Duck** (*Anas fulvigula*): Iowa's 10th record was found in a mixed flock at Lake Ridge Pond in *Johnson* 28 Nov–13 Dec (2021-60,

**A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 92:7, 19, 51).

**Harlequin Duck** (*Histrionicus histrionicus*): An adult female was photographed 6 December on the Missouri River southwest of Onawa *Monona* (2021-64, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 92:52).

**Rufous Hummingbird** (*Selasphorus rufus*): An adult male was at a private residence near Faulkes Heritage Woods in *Linn* 15–19 August 2021 (2021-47, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 92:9, 19); a female spent 19–28 November 2021 at the feeders in a Dubuque yard *Dubuque* (2021-59, **A-R** 6-1, 7-0, *IBL* 92:9).

**Broad-billed Hummingbird** (*Cynanthus latirostris*): Iowa's 2nd record was photographed on 13–19 October 2021 at Humboldt in *Humboldt* (2021-58, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 92:9,



Broad-billed Hummingbird, Humboldt, 18 October 2021. Photograph by Diane Crookham-Johnson, Oskaloosa, IA.

Newton 2022).

**King Rail** (*Rallus elegans*): A single adult was photographed at Deere Dike *Dubuque* 1 May (2021-22, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 91:112, 124); a calling bird was identified 28 July 2021 at Pool Slough WA in *Allamakee* (2021-45, **A-D** 7-0, *IBL* 91:163).

**Red Knot** (*Calidris canutus*): From 1–3 juveniles were at the west end of Red Rock Reservoir *Marion* 22–30 August (2021-61, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 92:10, 11).

**Red Phalarope** (*Phalaropus fulicarius*): A basic adult was found at Saylorville Reservoir *Polk* on 2 October (2021-63, **A-D** 7-0, *IBL* 92:12).

**Pomarine Jaeger** (*Stercorarius pomarinus*): A dark morph adult at Saylorville Reservoir *Polk* on 4–6 September was the earliest sighting of 6 accepted records, all in the fall season (2021-51, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 92:12).

**Parasitic Jaeger** (*Stercorarius parasiticus*): A juvenile light morph was at Red Rock Reservoir *Marion* 4 September (2021-62, **A-D** 7-0, *IBL* 92:12).

**Long-tailed Jaeger** (*Stercorarius longicaudus*): An adult at Saylorville Reservoir *Polk* 4–7 September was Iowa's 6th accepted record



*Long-tailed Jaeger, Saylorville Reservoir, Polk, 6 September 2021. Photograph by Matt Wetrich, Jefferson, IA.*

(2021-52, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 92:12).

**Little Gull** (*Hydrocoloeus minutus*): There were two spring records from Saylorville Reservoir *Polk*. A first cycle individual was present on 24 April (2021-13, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 91:116), and an adult was there 26 April (2021-15, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 91:116).

**Short-billed Gull** (*Larus brachyrhynchus*): A first cycle bird was at Coralville Reservoir *Johnson* 13–17 October (2021-57, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 92:12, 20). Formerly Mew Gull.

**California Gull** (*Larus californicus*): A second cycle individual was at the riverfront at Fort Madison *Lee* 18 January and again on 6 February (2021-05, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 91:68); another second cycle bird was at Lake Manawa *Pottawattamie* 27 March (2021-18, **A-D** 7-0, *IBL* 91:116); an adult was found at Hawkeye Wildlife Area *Johnson* 2 May (2021-23, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 91:116); an adult was at Dubuque River Walk *Dubuque* 25 September (2021-54, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 92:13); another adult was along the Mississippi River at Fort Madison *Lee* 29 December (2021-65, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 92:54).

**Great Black-backed Gull** (*Larus marinus*): Four juveniles were recorded in the first half of the year: One was at Pool 14 on the Mississippi River *Scott* 20 February (2020-06, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 91:68); a second was on the river at Dubuque on 6 March (2021-16, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 91:117); a third juvenile was at Red Rock Reservoir *Marion* on 11 Mar (2021-08, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 91:117); and a fourth was at South Sabula Lake *Jackson* 12 March (2021-17, **A-D** 6-1, 6-1, *IBL* 91:117).



**Little Blue Heron** (*Egretta caerulea*): An adult was at Little Storm Lake *Buena Vista* 23 May (2021-36, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 91:117, 123); up to 3 juveniles were at Maskunkya Marsh *Mahaska* 17 July–3 August (2021-42, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 91:154, 168, 182, back cover 91[4]).

**Glossy Ibis** (*Plegadis falcinellus*): There were eight records from the spring season. One was at Ventura Marsh *Cerro Gordo* 25 April (2021-14, **A-P** 6-1, 6-1, *IBL* 91:118); another was at New Lake *Woodbury* 30 April (2021-20, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 91:118); one was feeding alongside 3 White-faced Ibis at Trumbull Lake *Clay* 30 April (2021-21, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 90:118); one was associating with 2 White-faced Ibis at Little Storm Lake *Buena Vista* 11 May (2021-28, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 91:118); a lone bird was at McHugh Wetland *Boone* on 12 May (2021-29, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 91:118); another lone bird was at Maskunkya Marsh *Mahaska* 12 May (2021-30, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 91:118, 154); one was at Pickerel Lake *Buena Vista* 16 May (2021-32, **A-P** 6-1, 7-0, *IBL* 91:118); and a lone bird was at Sandhill Lake *Woodbury* 17 May (2021-34, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 91:118).

**Gyr Falcon** (*Falco rusticolus*): A juvenile was photographed in rural *Sac* on 9 January (2021-02, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 91:72, 76).

**Fish Crow** (*Corvus ossifragus*): One calling bird was present at Saylorville Reservoir *Polk* 11 March–30 May (2021-07, **A-R** 7-0, *IBL* 91:128); a second individual was seen and heard 11 May at Starr's Cave and Preserve *Des Moines* (2021-27, **A-D** 7-0, *IBL* 91:128); possibly as many as 3 seen and heard

1 Jul at Mississippi View Drive *Muscatine Muscatine* (2021-41, **A-D** 5-2, 6-1, *IBL* 91:176); two individuals at Sandpiper RA of Saylorville Reservoir *Polk* on 22 August indicate a continued presence of birds recorded here in the spring (2021-48, **A-R** 7-0, *IBL* 92:23, 91:182); a report of two individuals on 24 September at Saylorville Reservoir *Polk* was taken as evidence of the species continued presence there beyond the breeding season (2021-49, **A-D** 6-1, 7-0, *IBL* 92:23). Iowa still lacks a breeding record for this species.

**Varied Thrush** (*Ixoreus naevius*): An adult female was at Calkins Nature Center in *Hardin* 27–29 September (2021-55, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 92:21, 25).

**Evening Grosbeak** (*Coccothraustes vespertinus*): A single male frequented a rural feeder south of Dubuque *Dubuque* 9–23 Jan (2021-01, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 91:79, cover 91[2]); an audio file of the calls of an unseen group of Type I Evening Grosbeaks was made 18 Jan at Jester Park *Polk* (2021-04, **A-R** 7-0, *IBL* 91:79, Will and Dougherty 2021); two were seen and heard overhead at Saylorville Reservoir *Polk* 20 Mar (2021-10, **A-D** 7-0, *IBL* 91:130).

**Lesser Goldfinch** (*Spinus psaltria*): Iowa's 3rd record was an adult male found in a small flock of American Goldfinches in a West Des Moines yard *Polk* 10 January (2021-03, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 91:79).

**Bullock's Oriole** (*Icterus bullockii*): An adult male visiting feeders at a rural *Mitchell* residence 4, 5 May was the 8th accepted record (2021-24, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 91:132); an immature male in NE Cedar Rapids

Linn 8–11 May was the 9th accepted record (2021-25, A-P 7-0, IBL 91:132).

**Swainson's Warbler** (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*): Iowa's first accepted record was a bird found 20 May at East River Valley Park in *Story* first by sound, then by photograph, audio, and video (2021-35, A-P 7-0, IBL 91:133, Ollie and Patterson 2021, cover 91[3]).

**Prairie Warbler** (*Setophaga discolor*): At least three males and one female were in the traditional area of Shimek SF-Croton Unit *Lee* during 30 Apr–29 May (2021-31, A-P 7-0, IBL 91:135, 136).

**Western Tanager** (*Piranga ludoviciana*): A male briefly visited a feeder in a Johnston yard *Polk* on 9 May (2021-26, A-D 7-0, IBL 91:136).

**Black-headed Grosbeak** (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*): A first year male was at Stone State Park in *Woodbury* 24 August (2021-50, A-D 6-1, 7-0, IBL 92:30).

#### RECORDS FROM THE PAST ACCEPTED

**Prairie Warbler** (*Setophaga discolor*): An adult male on 1 May 2014 was photographed at Martin Lake in *Black Hawk* (2021-AA, A-P, \*Connor Langan).

#### 2021 RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED

The following records were reviewed and Not Accepted. This does not mean the committee believes these birds were misidentified, rather it means the evidence provided was not convincing for at least two of seven reviewers or for establishing the

wildness of the birds. Not Accepted means not accepted for inclusion in the IOU's archives of confirmed bird records.

**Whooping Crane** (*Grus americana*): All agreed the identification was correct; however, the birds were almost certainly from the introduced Eastern Migratory Population (2021-56, NA 3-4).

**Brown Pelican** (*Pelecanus occidentalis*): All reviewers agreed the description was not detailed enough to confirm this identification (2021-43, NA 0-7).

**Glossy Ibis** (*Plegadis falcinellus*): A majority of reviewers thought a first year White-faced Ibis was a possibility (2021-53, NA 2-5).

**Lark Bunting** (*Calamospiza melanocorys*): All reviewers agreed the written description did not contain enough details to navigate this delicate identification (2021-40, NA 0-7).

**Western Tanager** (*Piranga ludoviciana*): With no description of the bill, several reviewers felt other species, particularly orioles, were not eliminated (2021-37, NA 4-3, 2-5).

**Black-headed Grosbeak** (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*): Although two reviewers voted to accept this record, five others thought the brief description did not adequately eliminate Rose-breasted Grosbeak (2021-33, NA 2-5).

The recording and preserving of the Iowa ornithological record takes the critical actions of people such as the 55 who provided documentations for the records contained in this report. Listed along with the number of documentations submitted in 2021, they are Brandon Caswell 13, Stephen J. Dinsmore 10, Clayton Will 10, Mark Brown 8, John Bissell 5, Dana Siefer 5, Chris Edwards 4, Tyler Harms 4, Connor Langan 4, Tony Moline 4, Gerald White 4, Jayden Bowen 3, Aaron Brees 3, Diane Crookham-Johnson 3, Bill Huser 3, Dylan Osterhaus 3, David Shealer 3, Wendy Vandewalle 3, Eliza Willis 3, John and Kristin Anderson-Bricker 2, James Forde 2, Rita Goranson 2, Ann Johnson 2, James McCoy 2, Wolfgang Oesterreich 2, Mark Proescholdt 2, Paul Roisen 2, Tom Schilke 2, Reid Allen 1, April Blair 1, Carla Delucchi 1, Colin Dobson 1, Thomas Dougherty 1, Dawn Gunderson 1, Douglas Harr 1, Paul Hertzel 1, Ami Horowitz 1, Peter Kondrashov 1, Abbey Krava 1, Peter Leabhart 1, Betty Lucas 1, Samuel Manning 1, Cathy Mittelberg 1, Jacob Newton 1, Susan Nixon 1, Ken Saunders 1, Stuart Sparkman 1, Caleb Strand 1, Susa Stonedahl 1, Steve Stucker 1, Kerry Swift 1, Dennis Thompson 1, Connor Ties 1, Tatum Vermeer 1, Matt Wetrich 1.

Committee members for 2021 with years in which their terms expire were Paul Skrade (2021), Mark Brown (2022), Doug Harr (2023), Lee Schoenewe (2024), John Bissell (2025), Francis Moore (2026), and Paul Hertzel (secretary, appointed by the committee). Betty Lucas was nominated by the committee and subsequently appointed by the Board of Directors to fill a regular term beginning in 2022 and replacing Paul Skrade whose term expired at the end of the year.

Many thanks to Francis Moore and Betty Lucas for reviewing this article and making suggestions which improved it.

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## Book Review: *The Secret Perfume of Birds: Uncovering the Science of Avian Scent*

Charles Wittman



*The Secret Perfume of Birds: Uncovering the Science of Avian Scent* by Danielle J. Whittaker. 2022. 296 pages. Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore. ISBN 978-1421443478. \$30.00 (Hardcover).

Sense of smell in birds has been long misunderstood, minimized, discredited, and even dismissed. Maybe just asking “Can birds smell?” is misguided.

John James Audubon’s assumption that turkey buzzards (vultures) couldn’t smell was based on misinterpretation of his observations of behavior. Today’s broader perspective on bird senses, including smell, and newer research methods and technologies, has provided greater understanding.

*The Secret Perfume of Birds: Uncovering the Science of Avian Scent* by Danielle Whittaker is part science investigation, part memoir. The word perfume in the title of the book is more than a hint that not only can birds smell but there’s an underlying how and why to the complexity of their own chemical signals, hinted at by Hoopoes on the cover.\* The book consists of a preface, which sets the tone, eight chapters and an afterword, plus a glossary and list of reference works.

Whittaker, with a PhD in biological anthropology, was new to ornithology when she was hired as manager of a research lab at Indiana University. At the time the lab was doing a long-term study involving fieldwork on Dark-eyed Juncos.

She knew birds aren’t like mammals; they have more efficient respiratory and circulatory systems and a different brain structure. But a casual comment about birds’ sense of smell piqued her curiosity. Were researchers asking the right questions about sense of smell in birds? Should they be asking instead whether birds sense odors and do they change or modify behavior in response?

The lab used juncos because they are easy to find and see, easy to catch, and are found in much of North America. The research focused on endocrinology methods and whether testosterone levels influenced behavior. Whittaker’s fieldwork was to gather samples from wild junco uropygial, or preen, glands; birds apply the preen oil to their feathers for a variety of reasons.

Since preen oil also has an odor, are there other reasons for using it? Birds, humans, and other creatures detect odor through nasal olfactory receptors, controlled by genes with thousands of variants. Human responses can vary



widely, even over time. Research discoveries indicated the bird's scent can communicate species, sex, and condition of the individual.

More questions led to an examination of the role of scent in reproduction, specifically the male-female relationship. Do birds pay attention to scents, since they apparently don't scent mark or search for scents as do mammals? Bill wiping, a visible behavior of birds, is usually thought to be associated with cleaning after eating but she noticed that male juncos defending their territory frequently paused to bill wipe.

After four years at Indiana, Whittaker moved to Michigan State University's center for the study of evolution where she managed a large research facility. More important to her own research she found a "web of connections" with hundreds of researchers. Bits of information and ideas gleaned from other researchers led Whittaker and a colleague to examine bacteria and its influence on bird scent using junco preen oil collected earlier in her career.

I found the book gives a remarkable overview of Whittaker's scientific quest, her cross-discipline approach to the subjects, and accumulated discoveries. Her self-effacing sense of humor is a bonus.

\*Why are Hoopoes on the cover of the book? They are known to spread their own preen oil on incubating eggs, introducing antimicrobial benefits.

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*Black-necked Stilt, Swan Lake - Hawkeye WA, Johnson, 7 May 2022. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*

## Fifty Years Ago in *Iowa Bird Life*

James J. Dinsmore



The September 1972 *Iowa Bird Life* was a fairly average 28-page issue. The lead article by Woodward Brown summarized recent records of 12 species classified as Casual in Iowa and, for 10 of them, provided maps showing the locations of those records. Of those, nine are now Regular in Iowa, Ferruginous Hawk is still Casual, and Greater Prairie-Chicken and Common Raven are Accidental. Current readers of this journal will be surprised to see how few records there were at that time for species such as Ross's Goose, Greater Scaup, Surf Scoter, Long-tailed Duck, and Glaucous Gull, all of which now have multiple records yearly.

An article by Lillian Serbousek described about 20 Linn County birding areas, grouped by habitat as bottomlands, uplands, aquatic, or other. Many of the areas are familiar to current birders. A good map shows their locations.

The fall 1972 meeting was held 16–17 September at Vinton with 55 people attending. Saturday activities included a few announcements, bird walks, dinner, and a bird quiz. Sunday featured the usual field trips on which 91 species were found, lunch, and the business meeting. The treasurer's report showed a balance of \$1,267 in the checking account and \$1,805 in the savings account, much lower balances than in recent years.

Woodward Brown's field reports covered from late May into September, a longer period than usual. Some of the more interesting finds were an Arctic Loon in May at Saylorville Reservoir, a Surf Scoter in May at New Albin, only one American White Pelican in July at Red Rock, nesting Piping Plovers and Least Terns at DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge, a Black-billed Magpie in August at Indianola, several Ruby-crowned Kinglets in late June, an Evening Grosbeak in September at DeWitt, several reports of Red Crossbills in August, and a Lark Bunting in early June near Council Bluffs. Warbler migration was noted as starting in late August and early September. A few book reviews and a list of the group's members completed the issue.

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**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES** (renewable yearly):

Fledgling (students) \$20 (electronic only), Institutional (domestic) \$35, Institutional (foreign) \$45, Goldfinch \$25 (electronic only), Bluebird \$35, Oriole \$50, Egret \$75, Osprey \$100, Bald Eagle \$250, and Peregrine Falcon \$500+. Membership dues entitle members to receive *Iowa Bird Life* quarterly and to vote and hold office in the Union. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Join, give a gift, or manage your membership on-line at <[www.iowabirds.org](http://www.iowabirds.org)>. Paper forms for new members and renewals may be mailed to the treasurer. Back issues of *Iowa Bird Life* are available from Membership Coordinator Cecille Thompson, 7503 Wildflower Ct, Johnston, IA 50131 ([cecillethompson@gmail.com](mailto:cecillethompson@gmail.com)).

**INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS:**

Original manuscripts, notes, letters (indicate if for publication), editorials, and other material relating to birds in Iowa should be sent by e-mail attachment in Microsoft Word to editor at [IBL@iowabirds.org](mailto:IBL@iowabirds.org). Research manuscripts should include abstract, introduction, study area, methods, results, discussion, and literature cited sections and will be sent for peer review. Accepted manuscripts will be published promptly depending on space available.

**PHOTOS AND GRAPHICS:**

Submit only original, unsized, and unenhanced photos in your camera's JPEG (\*.jpg) format. Photos must be 300 dpi at the size they will be printed (6-1/2" wide by 6-1/2" high for the cover and various smaller sizes inside), so setting your camera to its highest possible resolution is recommended. The photo editor will do any resizing and enhancing required because any previous adjustments to the photos may make them unusable. Members may upload their photos using the upload tool, Upload IBL Photos, after logging in. If you have trouble with internet connectivity preventing using the tool, email to the photo editor at [lgdau9@gmail.com](mailto:lgdau9@gmail.com). Submit graphs or maps as email attachments to your manuscript to the editor.

Deadlines for submission are: 1 January for the fall season, 1 April for the winter season, 1 July for the spring season, and 1 October for the summer season.

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**FRONT COVER PHOTO:** Ring-necked Ducks, Otter Creek Marsh WMA, *Tama*, 4 April 2022. Photograph by Ken Saunders II, Grinnell, IA.

**BACK COVER PHOTO:** Black-throated Blue Warbler, Squire Point Trail, *Johnson*, 4 May 2022. Photograph by Brandon Caswell, Marion, IA.

**LAYOUT:** Doreen Van Ryswyk, Mitchellville, IA.

**GRAPHICS:** Paul Hertz, Mason City, IA.

**PRINTER:** Carter Printing Company, Des Moines, IA.



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# **IOWA BIRD LIFE**

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## **IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION**



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## IOWA BIRD LIFE

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*The Iowa Ornithologists' Union, founded in 1923, encourages interest in the identification, study, and protection of birds in Iowa and seeks to unite those who have these interests in common. Iowa Bird Life is a quarterly publication of the Union.*

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**ERRATA:** We regret an error in *Iowa Bird Life* 92(3). The author of "Book Review: *The Secret Perfume of Birds: Uncovering the Science of Avian Scent*" should be Charles Wittman.

## Welcome a New *Iowa Bird Life* Editor

*Ann Johnson and Christopher Brochu*



*Christopher Brochu*

After a year of scrambling to get issues to print, the Publications Committee is pleased to announce that we now have a more permanent editor in place. Please welcome Christopher (Chris) Brochu of Iowa City as the new editor of *Iowa Bird Life*. Chris, as you will see below, brings a lot of knowledge to our organization and we look forward to his contributions to the birds of Iowa. Please send any articles of interest to him at the email address at the end.

### Introducing Chris

It is a privilege to serve as editor of *Iowa Bird Life*. The Iowa Ornithologists' Union has done much for me, and this is a modest effort to give back.

I'm a vertebrate paleontologist and systematist in the Department of Earth & Environmental Sciences at the University of Iowa (UI). I obtained my BS at UI in 1989 and PhD at the University of Texas in 1997. After this, I spent three years as a post-doctoral research scientist at the Field Museum of Chicago. I returned to UI, this time as faculty, in 2001.

My research program focuses on the diversity and evolutionary history of crocodyliforms—modern alligators, crocodiles, and gharials and their extinct relatives. I work with information obtained from both fossil and recent material. Recent efforts include the fossil record of North American crocodyliforms, the problem of species recognition in modern cryptic species complexes, standardization of modern crocodylian nomenclature, and the responses of crocodiles to climate change in East Africa over the past 25 million years. My time at the Field Museum was devoted to their infamous *Tyrannosaurus rex*, “Sue”. (Crocodiles are objectively better than tyrannosaurs. We don't need special effects to see crocodiles eat people.)

I teach courses at UI on dinosaurs (including the living forms we call birds) and vertebrate evolution. I also teach a workshop each year for incoming Honors students entitled “How Birds Work,” during which we learn how some of the most notable features of birds—feathers, flight, and so on—arose from earlier non—bird ancestors.

I'm originally from the East Coast, but I became a birder in Iowa. My grandparents lived in Iowa City—my grandfather was a professor in the De-

partment of Theater Arts at UI—and so I came here for college. We were snowed in by a blizzard during Thanksgiving break during my freshman year. There was little to do but watch the bird feeders in my grandparents' back yard. Most of the birds were familiar to me—Northern Cardinals, Blue Jays, sparrows (though I didn't really distinguish different forms)—but at some point, a handsome bluish-black and white bird appeared clinging to the trunk of a walnut tree. I'd never seen a bird like it. It was compact and alert, and it moved up and down the trunk with great deliberation. There was a copy of Peterson's bird guide near the window, so I looked it up. White-breasted Nuthatch. I had no idea such birds existed, much less that they'd show up at a suburban bird feeder. And when a Red-breasted Nuthatch appeared later that day, I was hooked.

I hope to continue the excellent work done by my predecessors in this position. I'm honored to fill this role.

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# First Iowa Records of Limpkin

*Jay Gilliam, Dana Siefer and Ann Johnson*

The expansion of the range of Limpkin, a bird normally found in freshwater marshes of Florida feeding on apple snails and freshwater mussels, is a fascinating and mysterious one. For years, the bird was not expected outside of Florida or occasionally into Georgia although there were a few extralimital records. Like most birds, one would occasionally wander and by the year 2000 it had been recorded west to Mississippi and north to Maryland. In 2017, however, something interesting happened. Louisiana to the west recorded their first state record and another bird had moved northwest into Tennessee. The march had begun. There were new state records in Illinois in 2019; Oklahoma in 2020; and Arkansas, Minnesota, Texas, and West Virginia in 2021. In 2022 eight additional midwestern states, including Iowa, joined the party. The total records in the inland United States increased from six in 2021 to fifty in 2022 as of 30 September 2022 with Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, and Wisconsin all recording their first state records (Figures 1 and 2). The records continue to grow.

## Inland Records from eBird through 30 September 2022



Figure 1. Six Limpkin Records in 2021



Figure 2. Fifty Limpkin Records in 2022 as of 30 September 2022.

## First Iowa Record

On 23 June 2022, Jay Gilliam spent the evening hiking the Cinder Path Trail southwest of Chariton (Lucas Co.) searching for a couple of rare odonates that had recently been reported there. He parked at the trail crossing on 460th Street, a Maintenance B dirt road, and walked the trail in both directions. After not seeing many bugs, he returned to his car to leave but made the decision to walk down the road to where the Chariton River crosses it to evaluate it for potential odes on future outings. The river cuts across the road and causes

a steep dip on both sides.

As he approached the top of the dip at 7:00 p.m., a medium-sized long-legged wading bird flushed from the north side and flew toward the south right in front of him about 15 meters away. He observed the bird to be overall brownish in color with a paler head and neck and with a thick pale bill that was slightly downcurved. He at once



*Figure 3. Limpkin, Lucas, 23 June 2022, Jay Gilliam.*

knew what it was because Limpkin had been on his radar with all the recent midwestern sightings, including one on this same day in Nebraska.

Thinking the Limpkin had flown downstream and out of sight, Jay switched the lens setup on the camera (since it was set for bugs), changed the settings for low light conditions, and then slowly walked down the dip to where he could see down the river beyond the dense vegetation on the banks of the river. But he didn't see the bird. He then heard a loud single "cluck" call repeated every couple of seconds. He scanned the trees with binoculars and found the Limpkin about 40 meters away and about 30 meters high in a tree. It was hiding behind a vine-covered limb and would move its head back and forth to peer at him while trying to stay hidden. He managed to get off a few shots with his camera until the Limpkin flushed and flew down the river out of sight (Figure 3).

Jay said, "This was not the kind of habitat I would've expected to find a Limpkin utilizing. The river was not deep but it had accumulated mussels on the upstream side of the road and a subsequent observer noted broken mussel shells in that area that the Limpkin was likely using for a food source. It rained that evening, but one person hiked down the muddy road early the next morning in the rain and observed the Limpkin at the same spot. Later that afternoon and at the end of the day two other birders observed the Limpkin and it was never seen after that. The funny thing was that I had been chatting with some friends that day and told them I was going down there to look for bugs and I joked that I was going to find a Limpkin! This represents the first state record of Limpkin in Iowa."

### **A Most Cooperative Second Record**

On Saturday, 17 July 2022 about 4:30 p.m., Dana Siefer went to Little Storm Lake, Buena Vista Co., with the intention of recording video of the dozen or so Great Blue Herons at Little Storm Lake. He walked out on the dike, recorded some video, and ventured farther down the dike to see if he

could find a few other birds to capture on video. As he walked past the water control structure, he noticed a small dark bird standing along the cattails and quickly set up the tripod and started recording video. He took note of what he was seeing by watching the back of the camera. The bird had an upright and thin appearance, brown coloration with white streaking. At first, he believed it was a juvenile Yellow-crowned



Figure 4. Limpkin. Little Storm Lake, Buena Vista, 17 July 2022, Dana Siefer.

Night-Heron that he had seen a few years ago in a similar spot along the dike. But as he was recording video, he noticed the bill was much longer than that of a Yellow-crowned Night-Heron. He suddenly recalled Jay Gilliam's Limpkin find from the previous month near Chariton. Not remembering any of the exact identifying features of a Limpkin and having left his phone with the trusty Sibley app back at the truck, he quickly wrapped up the video, snapped a few photos (Figure 4), and hurried back to identify the bird. When he was confident in what he saw, he posted a message to the IOU group.

Within a few hours, he joined two NW Iowa birders, Ed Thelen and Lee Schoenewe. They watched as the Limpkin strolled the shoreline, picking up snails, breaking them open with its bill, and eating the insides. The edge of the cattails was littered with discarded snail shells. The next morning, Brandon Caswell arrived at first light and was soon joined by Paul Roisen. Everyone continued to where the bird was seen the night prior. Dana was nervous the Limpkin would not be there, but like so many days to come, the bird was in the exact same spot, methodically feeding on snails. Within minutes, the rising sun lit up the Limpkin in a golden light and the three of them viewed the bird from approximately 60 feet. Two



Figure 5. Chinese Mystery Snails, Little Storm Lake, Buena Vista, Dana Siefer.

of the birders who arrived later that morning were Dr. Stephen Dinsmore and his father Dr. James Dinsmore. Steve mentioned that he was interested in what

type of snails the Limpkin was eating. Once the water receded, Dana collected some of the discarded shells (Figure 5), scrubbed them clean, boxed them up, and shipped them “snail mail” to Dr. Dinsmore’s office at Iowa State University. Steve had the local mollusk expert identify them as Chinese Mystery Snails. These are the snails commonly found in aquaria and have become an invasive species in the United States.

Over the course of the next month, the Limpkin routinely could be found within 100 yards from the place it was originally spotted, and one rarely drove past the bridge without seeing someone along the side of the road with binoculars or a spotting scope. This most cooperative Limpkin was last seen the evening of 17 August 2022.

### Yet More Limpkins

On 12 August 2022 Ann Johnson received an email through the IOU website from Carla Secoy of Dubuque who had been photographing birds at Green Island WMA in Jackson County. She stated, “We did see the cranes but we also spotted an adult Limpkin



(*Aramus guarauna*). Upon researching this bird, I believe it is rare for it to be found in this area. Would that be correct? I am pretty excited and have some really great images of it.”

Carla’s two birds, a second bird appeared when the first bird flushed (pers. comm.) and is captured in the photo (Figure 6), were the first multiple bird sightings in the state. Unfortunately, they were not relocated the following day.

Limpkins continue to be reported across the interior of the continent into the fall. Iowa’s fourth record and fifth photographed individual was reported to eBird by Michael Lenagh on 20 October 2022 at a private lake in northern Polk County and was seen by many. This bird lingered through 19 December when it was observed in the morning but found deceased, presumably from the extremely cold weather, in the afternoon. The specimen was salvaged for the collection at Iowa State University. Mark Clemens posted a photo to Facebook of a Limpkin he found in Lee County on 5 November 2022 for an amazing sixth bird since late June.

Figure 6. Two Limpkins, Green Island WMA, Jackson, 12 August 2022, Carla Secoy.



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## Summer Snowy Owl in Chickasaw County

*Karl Fliris and Ann Johnson*

In early July, Karl returned home from a trip and learned from his friend Beth Eiler about a Snowy Owl recently photographed at an ethanol plant near Lawler. Although he was unable to see and photograph it, he did document the occurrence in eBird.

Karl's friend Beth said, "I first saw the Snowy Owl in Lawler on June 28 as I was leaving the office around 4:40 p.m. I was surprised to see an owl and concerned that the owl was on the ground. The owl seemed large. Midday on June 29 the owl was sitting on one of the streetlights and was on another streetlight as I left that evening around 5 p.m. I can verify those times with timestamps on photos I took with my phone. I saw the owl again several times over the next few days through July 1. Each time I saw it, I was surprised because I rarely see owls and would not expect to see an owl during the day. From our discussions, I now understand that it is not uncommon for the Snowy Owl to be hunting during the day. Several of my coworkers also saw the owl during this time. Most of the time we saw it, he was sitting on a streetlight, but one coworker saw it in flight. Another coworker mentioned seeing the owl on security video back in the spring, maybe in March."



*Snowy Owl near Lawler, Chickasaw, 29 June 2022. Photograph by Beth Eiler.*



*Snowy Owl near Lawler, Chickasaw, 29 June 2022. Photograph by Beth Eiler.*

The weather in late June in northern Iowa had been warm with temperatures in the 80s and reaching over 90 degrees on a few occasions so there must have been some stress on an Arctic bird even though it was probably finding numerous rodents in the spilled grain around the plant. Summer records from

this latitude are extremely rare. A check of eBird data for the summer of 2022 shows seven Snowy Owl records from the lower forty-eight and only three from the latter half of June into July.

State	Location	First Date	Last Date
Wisconsin	near Green Bay	6/2/2022	6/2/2022
Michigan	near Indiana border	6/7/2022	6/12/2022
Maine	near Portland	6/8/2022	6/8/2022
New York	near Niagara Falls	6/10/2022	6/10/2022
New York	near Watkins Glen	6/15/2022	7/24/2022
Iowa	Chickasaw County	6/28/2022	7/1/2022
Maine	northern border	7/7/2022	7/7/2022

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# Iowa Ornithologists' Union

## Fall 2022 Board Meeting

Katie Byerly

The Fall 2022 Iowa Ornithologists' Union (IOU) Board of Directors meeting was held via ZOOM on 15 September 2022. Dennis Thompson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Members in attendance included President Dennis Thompson, Treasurer Tom Dougherty, Secretary Katie Byerly, board members Wendy VanDeWalle and Therese Cummiskey. Publications Committee Chair Ann Johnson was also in attendance.

### Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Tom Dougherty presented the 2022 financial report. Average membership is down by 6 members; however, average membership revenue per person is higher than in 2021. IOU received a \$1,000 donation in 2022 and the Projects Committee spent \$2,000 under budget. Recent sales of the *Iowa Breeding Bird Atlas II* have brought in \$344. Expectations for the remainder of the year include publishing fees of \$8,000 if all *Iowa Bird Life* (IBL) issues are completed. December membership renewals should bring in around \$6,000. Income from the spring and fall meetings will be less due to lower attendance. Overall, the year-end net income should be slightly positive. The general operating funds include pre-paid membership funds (for 2023–2025) of \$5,000. Assuming all four IBLs are published, the year-end total assets should be approximately \$121,000 to \$125,000.

Treasurer Dougherty next shared a plan for managing IOU's \$125,000 bank balance. He proposed opening a non-profit account at a brokerage that offers FDIC insured CDs from multiple banks as well as the US Treasury bills and notes allowing IOU to take advantage of higher rates. Keeping \$25,000 in the checking account, \$50,000 could be transferred into said brokerage account. Interest from the invested \$50,000 at 4% will profit the organization \$2,000 in interest compared to the current \$250. This \$2,000 profit should allow IOU to maintain a breakeven annual budget. The remaining \$50,000 would be left in the Community First Credit Union under the current market rate of 0.5%. These monies in the credit union savings would be available in case a large project needs funding. The board agreed that Treasurer Dougherty should pursue this plan for managing the IOU's money.

### *Iowa Bird Life*

Ann Johnson participated in the meeting to present the status of the *Iowa Bird Life* publication. The new editor needed to resign effective immediately. Areas that cause editors frustration include waiting for others to complete their articles as well as the sizable increases of data that are being reported. The growth and ease of technology among most birders has significantly increased the number of sightings being reported (e.g., the average number of people reporting sightings has increased from around 40–60 to nearly 1000.) Ann explained how IBL sets IOU apart from just being a birding club. "*Iowa Bird Life* exists to provide a lasting account of the birds of Iowa for each season



and that can be used by researchers of the future. Without that we are simply a social club with a focus on interest in birds.” Ann has agreed to continue to work on the current IOU publications through 2022; however, the organization needs to do a wide search for someone willing to step up to this large project. Discussion was held regarding finding an Iowa birder who has such talents or seeking a non-birder who would be interested. Colorado pays their editor \$600 per issue. We all agreed this is more of a gift than a payment for the number of hours involved. We currently pay the graphic designer \$700 per issue. After a lengthy conversation, it was agreed that the continued publication of *IBL* is important; however, how to continue the publication is in question. Ann proposed changes in our IOU Publication Committee Bylaws (see details in this issue).

Ann Johnson presented a report on activity in the Publications Committee and some pressing questions and actions for board consideration.

### **The Future**

The IOU was formed in 1923 to:

- encourage interest in the identification, study, and protection of birds;
- unite all those persons who have this interest in common;
- collect and preserve knowledge on the occurrence of birds in Iowa;
- publish a journal appropriate to its purposes;
- conduct meetings of its members; and
- promote bird study in Iowa.

This discussion deals primarily with the third bullet point, which in turn leads to the fourth. It is what makes IOU unique and a scientific entity. *Iowa Bird Life* exists to provide a lasting account of the birds of Iowa for now and that can be used by researchers of the future. As Ann Johnson said, “Without that we are simply a social club with a focus on interest in birds.”

Before searching for another journal editor, we need to look at the bigger picture of where we are and where we want to go. All facets of the organization have a direct or indirect impact on the publication of a journal. As the only tangible perk of membership, the budget for publications is predicated on the number of members times the Goldfinch rate, which directly impacts some options, especially our ability to print 100% color.

### **A Major Purpose of *IBL*: Collect and preserve knowledge on the occurrence of birds in Iowa**

This has changed a lot since the first issue of *IBL* was published in 1931. It evolved from folks submitting their notes of interesting birds to a more systematic report of Seasonal Field Reports in the 1960s.

In 1980, Iowa joined the trend in many other states and created the Iowa Records Committee as the gatekeeper of the state checklist and to review reports of rare birds including those in old, published literature. It is critical to remember that at this point in our history, few rare birds were photographed so most reviews were of written descriptions and arguments. These reviews are all archived at Iowa State University and the process has been started to add them to the Iowa Records Committee website as well for easy access.

The digital revolution has been both a friend and a foe for creating a quality science journal. eBird has been life changing for enhancing our understanding of bird populations with a global perspective. We have gone from a few

folks mailing an editor their significant observations to more than 100,000 data points in a season, most from eBird, to synthesize into a coherent report. Social media is another source of information to help us get a good picture of the birds in our state. Some significant state records have come from individuals in a nature photography group posting a photo wondering what the species is. While not everyone is a hard-core birder, many are contributing to our knowledge, which is a good thing. For instance, the two-month summer season had 917 reporters covering 4438 locations in 98 counties—phenomenal. Our current reports give us and future researchers a truer picture of the birds in Iowa with that kind of coverage. The caveat is that we need to find a way to efficiently blend our IOU processes with those of others if we are going to be assured of having reliable information to publish.

### **Publications Committee Composition**

Moving forward we propose the following bylaws change for the Publications Committee:

Restructure the committee as all at-large members with any editors serving as ex-officio members but direction coming from others.

Wendy moved that the proposal be accepted. Dennis seconded. There was no further discussion. The board voted to approve the changes to the bylaws.

John Bissell, Karen Viste-Sparkman, and Connor Langan have agreed to be part of the restructured Publications Committee and their appointments were approved.

### **Centennial Celebration**

Planning has started for the 100th year celebration. A planning committee met via Zoom to start initial plans. Volunteers to join in the planning are very welcome. The spring meeting will be held during the first weekend in May 2023 in the Des Moines area. Plans include selling t-shirts and hats with a new IOU logo. The committee would also like to see an increase in field trips across the state spearheaded by the Events Committee. Comparing many social media sites regarding Iowa birding that have around 1000 followers, the IOU Facebook page followers fall far below this number and the IOU membership (roughly 400 members) is well below that. It would be good to increase membership to those levels and engage even more people interested in Iowa birds. Suggestions from the meeting included advertising about IOU and holding IOU meetings in public places like libraries and nature centers/conservation offices.

### **Projects**

The Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation has agreed to help spread the word that IOU has funds available for birding related projects. Dallas County has requested money for a new bird blind. Motus towers are being installed in Burlington and in a NW Iowa town.

Therese moved to adjourn. Tom seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Katie Byerly, IOU Secretary

## Iowa Ornithologists' Union Fall 2022 Membership Meeting

*Therese Cummiskey*

The meeting was called to order at the IOU Fall Meeting at 4:12 p.m. by President Dennis Thompson. Twenty-four members were in attendance.

Tom Dougherty gave the treasurer's report explaining income and expenditures. He reported that paid membership is down by six but overall, the membership revenue per person is higher than 2021. Total income to date (including dues, donations, meeting income, etc.) was \$17,263.31. Major expenses included *Iowa Bird Life* publications, meeting expenses, and projects. Tom expected that from September to December we will see a possible additional \$6000 in member revenue and an additional \$8000 in *IBL* bills, if all 2022 issues are published.

Denny reported that 26 IOU members in 2022 were new members.

With memorial money available for projects, Denny reported that he had reached out to the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation to see if they had any projects they were interested in funding. They connected him with the Iowa Conservation Education Coalition (ICEC) and we now have several requests, including one for a bird blind at Brenton Arboretum in Dallas County.

The group was informed that the new *Iowa Bird Life* editor resigned unexpectedly in July. The Publications Committee is looking at the current challenges of *IBL* and what it should look like moving forward. As an important scientific journal, it needs to be continued; we don't want eBird to take its place. A major challenge is how to best collect information/photos on rare and accidental bird sightings. In 1980, a decision was made that these sightings needed to be approved by the Records Committee before they could be accepted. With an increase of social media and everyone posting their photos we need to find a way to modernize how we acquire and approve these records. Much discussion was had on how we can encourage these often-times non-IOU members to submit their information to IOU. Can we promote IOU on other sites. Can an IOU member monitor non-IOU birding sites and then do a follow up. Can we contact the administrators of these sites and propose the prospect of working together for scientific research. The Publications Committee will come up with recommendations.

It was reported that the new IOU page allows anyone to post photos and information.

A motion was made by John Bissell and seconded by Cecille Thompson to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Therese Cummiskey, Secretary Pro Tem

# **Bylaws of the Publications Committee of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union**

*Revised and Approved by the Board of Directors—September 2022*

These bylaws replace those published in *Iowa Bird Life* 73(3):106–107, 2003.

## **PURPOSE**

1. To publish a quarterly journal, *Iowa Bird Life*, and other publications; as deemed desirable by the committee, the board, and the membership.
2. To publish special publications as deemed desirable by the committee, the board, and the membership.
3. To make recommendations on electronic publication of information, materials, and articles sponsored by the Iowa Ornithologists' Union (IOU), except for items that fall under the purview of the Records or Membership committees or the Board of Directors.
4. To make the publications of the IOU as exemplary as possible with the resources available.
5. To distribute announcements of meetings of the IOU, in or with regular publications.
6. To establish places of publication including a third-class mailing permit and make such appointments as are necessary to produce and distribute the publications of the IOU.
7. To make sure that the publications processes conform to the IOU's tax-exempt status.

## **COMMITTEE STRUCTURE**

1. The committee shall consist of five voting members appointed by the Board of Directors. When vacancies occur, the committee, including outgoing members, shall recommend replacements to the board.
2. All voting members will be appointed for five-year terms and may be reappointed. The primary editors of printed and electronic publications will serve as non-voting ex-officio members of the committee to keep the committee abreast of the current publishing situation.
3. A member may be involuntarily removed from the committee by a unanimous vote of the other four members and approval by the Board of Directors.
4. The committee shall elect its officers, which shall include at least a chairperson.
5. The committee may appoint ex officio members.
6. The committee shall appoint editors and such other major administrative positions as are necessary to carry out the publication process, with approval by the Board of Directors. The committee shall approve appointments made by the editors of sub-editors and other regular staff.





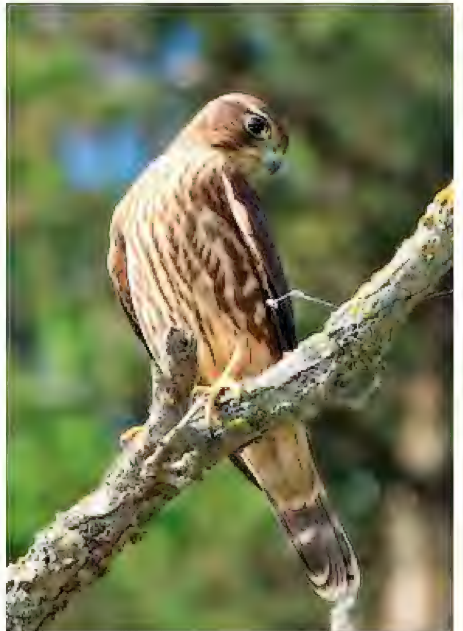
*Bald Eagle, Hampton Cemetery, Franklin, 22 November 2020, Photograph by Clayton Will, Madrid, IA.*



*Northern Harrier, Burrow's Pond Wildlife Area, Sac, 19 August 2020, Photograph by Dana Siefer, Storm Lake, IA.*



*Osprey, Blackhawk Pits, Sac, 20 September 2020, Photograph by Dana Siefer, Storm Lake, IA.*



*Merlin, just north of Cherokee along Mill, Cherokee, 4 September 2020, Photograph by Dick Bierman, Cherokee, IA.*



*Swainson's Hawks, The Square, Woodbury, 19 September 2020, Photograph by Paul Roisen, Sioux City, IA.*



*Red-tailed Hawk, Big Creek SP, Polk, 9 October 2020, Photograph by Tom Dougherty, Urbandale, IA.*



*Swainson's Hawk, The Square, Woodbury, 19 September 2020, Photograph by Paul Roisen, Sioux City, IA.*



*Sharp-shinned Hawk, Big Creek SP, Polk, 28 October 2020, Photograph by Tom Dougherty, Urbandale, IA.*



*Baird's Sandpiper, Hawkeye WMA, Johnson, 26 August 2020, Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*



*Least Sandpiper, Hawkeye WMA, Johnson, 29 August 2020, Photograph by Jayden Bowen, Iowa City, IA.*



*Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Cedar River Crossing, Johnson, 5 September 2020, Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*



*Semipalmated Sandpiper, Little Storm Lake, Buena Vista, 28 August 2020, Photograph by Dana Siefer, Storm Lake, IA.*





*Semipalmated Sandpiper, Saylorville Reservoir-Cherry Glen, Polk, 26 August 2020, Photograph by Tom Dougherty, Urbandale, IA.*



*Wilson's Snipe, Bjorkboda Marsh, Hamilton, 1 September 2020, Photograph by Doug Harr, Ogden, IA.*



*Long-billed Dowitcher, Cedar River Crossing, Johnson, 4 October 2020, Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*



*Lesser Yellowlegs, Cedar River Crossing, Johnson, 17 September 2020, Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*



7. Qualifications for appointment to the committee should include expertise in the publications process, knowledge of Iowa ornithology, and/or familiarity with the publication needs of the membership. Members of the committee should be willing and able to actively participate in carrying out the mission of the committee.

#### COMMITTEE PROCEDURES

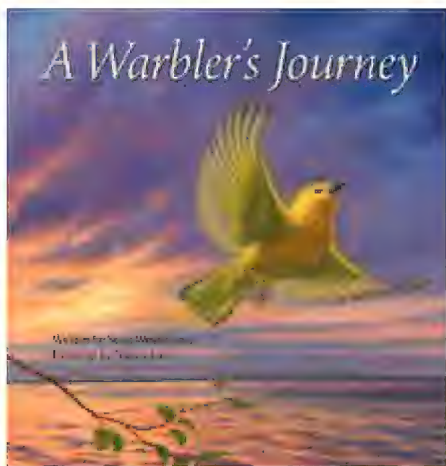
1. The committee may set up such procedures as are needed for its operation as long as they do not conflict with the constitution of the IOU or the committee bylaws.
2. The committee may recommend changes in the bylaws to the board.
3. The committee may hold meetings as needed and/or conduct business by mail, electronically, or by phone.
4. Formal actions of the committee require three positive votes.
5. Job performance of appointed positions should be reviewed by the committee at least every five years.

#### FINANCES

1. The committee shall submit a prospective budget for publications under the purview of the committee and for other items.
2. No monies shall be expended beyond the approved budget without prior approval by the board or the president acting for the board, except for unforeseeable cost overruns. Significant cost overruns shall be reported to the committee and the president.
3. No member shall receive remuneration for serving on the committee per se, other than for approved expenses or specific production work on publications.
4. Funds to be paid to editors for the task of publication and distribution shall be reflected in the annual prospective budget.

## Book Review: *A Warbler's Journey*

Richard Hollis



*A Warbler's Journey* by Scott Weiden-saul and paintings by Nancy Lane. 2022. 32 pages. The Gryphon Press. ISBN-13978-0940719477. \$18.00 (Hardcover). Reading age: 5–8 years, Grade level: 1–2.

This is a wonderful book for first and second graders. Many of our adult members will enjoy the stunning paintings on each set of pages and think about the perilous travels of this tiny Yellow Warbler. And we will enjoy reading this book to the youngsters in our lives. The 16 double pages are gorgeous. Three-quarters of a double page is a painting. The other quarter is a few paragraphs of text. Her migration path close to Iowa is shown on a single page map.

The text and the illustrations follow a single female Yellow Warbler from her winter home in Nicaragua to Canada's Northwest Territories. Each double page portrays an event as she prepares for her journey and then migrates north with help from three different families. The warbler listens to the sounds of her Nicaraguan home: howler monkeys and many other colorful birds. A small girl whose family resides in a shade-grown coffee tree plantation in Nicaragua is told the bird's name in Spanish is Reinita Amarilla. She is told that the pretty yellow warbler eats the insects that would harm their shade-grown coffee crop.

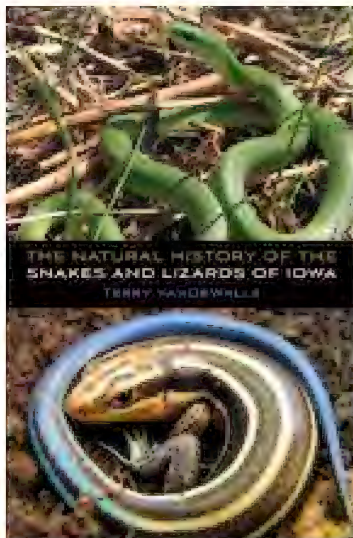
Arriving at the Gulf of Mexico in the Yucatan, the little warbler eats for three to five days to regain her strength before flying across the gulf waters. Two pages are devoted to the Gulf of Mexico crossing portion of her journey. Entering the United States coastal area is not very inviting, so she presses on until she finds food in the trees and gardens of an African-American family. Eventually she reaches the home of a family in the Łutsël K'é Dene First Nation in Canada who have preserved the land for all animals. There she finds a mate, builds a nest, and hears the sounds of her summer home.

The last double page, "Easy Ways for Everyone to Help Warblers (and All Migrating Birds)," is a list of ways to help birds. This lovely book would be an inspiring and cherished gift for youngsters in your life.

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# Book Review: *The Natural History of Snakes and Lizards of Iowa*

Richard Hollis



*The Natural History of the Snakes and Lizards of Iowa* (Burr Oak Guide) by Terry VanDeWalle. 2022. 384 pages. University of Iowa Press, Iowa City, IA. ISBN 978-1609388379. \$30.00 (Paperback).

Terry VanDeWall is a principal biologist with a consulting service and an adjunct instructor at Hawkeye Community College. He has been conducting research on Iowa's reptiles and amphibians for more than thirty years, working closely with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The introductory section includes an interesting chapter on the Biogeography of the Snakes and Lizards of Iowa by Neil P. Bernstein. The next chapter, Identifying Iowa's Lizards and

Snakes, consists of two well-constructed and helpful keys. The snake key is well illustrated.

The rest of the book takes us through the thirty-three species accounts that are based on a variety of personal records and examination of museum specimens. They contain several excellent photos including one of a shedding orange-striped ribbon snake. Each species account includes the following information:

- legal conservation status in Iowa;
- historical records of first specimens collected in Iowa and other names for the species;
- description and changes in status;
- size including Iowa data and national records;
- similar species;
- U.S. distribution and a map of counties coded by pre-1960, post-1960, and both periods;
- habitat;
- interesting behavior including a bar chart of monthly sightings;
- threats to the species;
- food and feeding; and
- reproduction.

This is much more than a field guide as it compares the historic data col-

lected by Iowa herpetologists in the 1930s and 1940s with that collected by the author and others since 1960. Distribution maps document the changes. The book is filled with fun facts and is fascinating to read. Notable facts include Iowa's De Kay's brown snake records that range from 9 to 13 inches long, whereas the longest outside of Iowa was 21 inches. Jim Christianson removed 34 western foxsnakes and 47 eastern yellow-bellied racers from a single well and well house. Northern water snakes are viviparous and give birth to live young, having anywhere from 6 to 99 young.

As I was writing this review, I learned that Terry VanDeWalle is working on a similar book on the natural history of the turtles of Iowa. One can hope a similar book on amphibians is also a possibility. Reptiles and amphibians are creatures that birders frequently see and having good information on the species is invaluable.

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**IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION**  
**CELEBRATING 100 YEARS**



## Fifty Years Ago in *Iowa Bird Life*

James J. Dinsmore



The December 1972 *Iowa Bird Life* was a thin, 20-page issue, suggesting that Editor Petersen's mailbox received few submissions. The lead article by Woodward Brown on the "The Lure of the List" summarized recent Iowa reports of Red-necked and Western grebes, Cinnamon Teal, Whimbrel, and Prairie Warbler, with a map and brief account for each, a format similar to his article in the previous issue of *Iowa Bird Life*.

The longest article, by Peter Petersen, describes birding areas in Clinton and southern Jackson counties and adjacent areas in Illinois. Most are near the Mississippi River and include the Sabula bottomlands, Eagle Point Park, Goose Lake, Maquoketa Caves State Park, and Wapsi Wildlife area, sites that are still familiar to some birders. County road maps provide a guide to where the sites are located but the small print makes them difficult to use. The article is still a useful summary of where one might go but does not provide much information on what species you might find.

The fall Field Reports are also brief with no real rarities mentioned. Some of the more interesting finds were seven Little Blue Herons at Red Rock, several reports of Evening Grosbeaks in October and November, and a Cape May and two Black-throated Blue warblers. Shorebirds, flycatchers, and sparrows are barely mentioned. It is apparent that compiler Woodward Brown had few reports and not much material. He ends his report by saying that if he didn't receive more material in the future, there would be no reason to continue the report. He would be amazed with the tens of thousands of reports that field reports editors now receive and sort through each season.

Among the shorter articles, one had photos of an all-white Red Crossbill, accompanied by four juveniles, that was found in Jesup in August. Another described a Whooping Crane found on 31 October north of Clinton, Iowa's first since 1911. An announcement describing a new learn-at-home ornithology course offered by Cornell University and a few book reviews fill out the issue.

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*Compiled by James J. Dinsmore*

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**FRONT COVER PHOTO:** Limpkin, Little Storm Lake, *Buena Vista*, 17 July 2022. Photograph by Dana Siefer, Storm Lake, IA.

**BACK COVER PHOTO:** American Kestrel, Spark's Cemetery Area, *Boone*, 27 June 2022. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.

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